

TRAVELS

IN THE YEAR 1792

THROUGH

FRANCE, TURKEY, AND HUNGARY,

TO

V I E N N A:

CONCLUDING WITH

AN ACCOUNT OF THAT CITY.

IN A SERIES OF FAMILIAR LETTERS

TO A LADY IN ENGLAND.

BY

WILLIAM HUNTER, *Esq.*

OF THE INNER TEMPLE.

Ignotis errare locis, ignota videre
Flumina gaudebat; studio minuente laborem. OVID.

SECOND EDITION, CORRECTED AND ENLARGED.

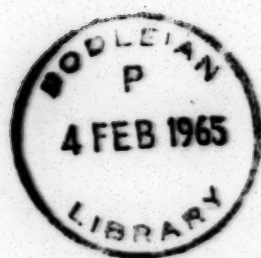
IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY T. BENSLEY,
FOR J. WHITE, FLEET-STREET.

1798.



ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE

FIRST EDITION.

WHY these Travels were not published sooner, or why they are published now, is of so little consequence to those who may do me the honour of reading them, that I shall neither waste their time nor my own by entering into an explanation of my reasons. All that it is incumbent on me to declare is, that they were written on the spot whence the respective Letters are dated, and, with very trifling variations, in the form which they now wear. As far as regards the information which they

contain, I have, in every respect, adhered as strictly to the truth as my own observation and the intelligence of others have enabled me. I am at the same time sensible, how much a traveller through foreign countries lies at the mercy of the natives, and how liable he is to be imposed on by their exaggerations. After having said thus much, if it should appear, that I have fallen into any erroneous statement of facts, I must hope that the candour of my readers will attribute it to those misrepresentations which sometimes unavoidably mislead the most accurate inquirers, and not to any wilful design to deceive.

LONDON,

March 24, 1796.

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE

SECOND EDITION.

THE encouragement which the First Edition of this work received from the Public, has induced me, as well from gratitude as from interest, to exert every effort, in my power, to render the republication of it more worthy of their candour and patronage. I have had leisure to collect, and arrange, several notes and observations, immediately appertain-

ing to the subject of these Letters, which, in the hurry of their first appearance, were either very much abridged, or totally omitted: and, where I have had any suspicions respecting the veracity of oral communications, I have spared no pains in consulting authors, whose acknowledged credit and authenticity, I was satisfied I might, with security, depend on. The notes, which were already published, I have been enabled, with a little alteration, to incorporate with the text; and I have embellished the present edition with a portrait of the reigning Grand Seigneur, and a map of the countries I visited, which, I trust, on examination, will

be found distinct and correct. On the subject of French politics, I have been obliged to make some trifling additions, by way of explanation to my sentiments which have been misunderstood, or willingly misinterpreted; for I should be as sorry to be considered the enemy of liberty, as the friend of France: they are both equally contemptible and degrading. The promulgation of opinions adverse to this gigantic republic is, I know, considered by many as an hazardous act. It possibly may be; though I have no such fears. For if these enemies to the human race should be hardy enough to attempt the invasion of this king-

dom, I think I may venture to predict, that they will be repelled with ignominy and ruin. There is, at present, a military force in this island, more than adequate to its defence against any hostile power, and our seas are protected by an unconquerable navy. Independently of these bulwarks, where is the man that is base enough to sit still, and behold his country ruined, his laws subverted, his property pillaged, his friends, his parents, his children, his wife, at the merciless disposal of a fierce and inexorable band of professed savages, who unite to the infuriate zeal of barbarians, the arts of civilization, and the knowledge and

discoveries of modern times. We have had time to reflect, and, profiting by that reflection, we shall know how to act. We have had an opportunity of contemplating our enemy, and of becoming acquainted with the baseness of their views, and the malignity of their detestable principles. They can no longer mislead us by plausible promises, and metaphysical arguments: our eyes are now open. We both understand, and despise, their new philosophy, and their new liberty. They have convinced the world, that the one is built upon atheism, and the other is supported by the most flagrant and opprobrious tyranny. Wherever they

have carried their desolating arms, pillage and massacre have attended on their march. They have dissembled first, that they might plunder with security after. Their smiles and their flattery, wherever they have succeeded, have been the forerunners of confiscation, and ruin, and death. I feel, from my soul, for those unhappy countries which are governed by French laws, and galled by French chains—chains which they have not now even the charity to gild. Let Great Britain look to Holland, to Italy, to Germany, to Spain, to Switzerland, to any spot of the known globe where either their arms or their principles have pe-

netrated, where they have come either as professed enemies or *professed friends*, and, in their destiny, read her own, if she does not act up to the character she has hitherto sustained. Her history is almost the history of laurels gained from France, and I am satisfied that she will, in this most afflicting and desperate of all her struggles, assert her former dignity and prowess. Terrible as the French have been to the rest of Europe, they cannot injure us, if we oppose them manfully and with sincerity. Some have openly deserted the standard of allegiance, and some have published, both

in the senate and from the hustings, doctrines and opinions highly injurious to the interests of the state. But these are few, compared with the number of citizens who still remain faithful and entire, and who, if the contest should ever come to the last melancholy crisis, will, I trust, have energy to crush both their internal and external foes. It is still a subject which admits of much concern, and stands in need of all our vigilance, and fortitude, and virtue. We can only reason from the analogy of ordinary events; we cannot follow Fortune in her eccentricities and aberrations. These are

critical and eventful times; and occurrences have happened, in the course of this long and fatal warfare, which have startled the most speculative minds, and far outstripped the wildest theories of conjecture. It is also impossible to penetrate into the all-wise and immutable decrees of Providence, which frequently effects its purpose by the most mysterious means. But, whatever may be the conclusion of this disastrous and precarious period, it is my sincere and fervent wish to abide by the fate of my country; and I am confident that I utter the sentiments of almost every man who has the ad-

vantage of living under the British constitution, when I declare, that I have no wish to survive its duration.

LONDON,
May 1, 1798.

ITINERARY.

Names of Places.	Posts.	Eng. miles.	Days.	Mths.	Curfory Remarks.
From LONDON to				Feb.	
<i>Dover</i> - -		73*	T.	14	
<i>Boulogne</i> - -			W.	15	Arrived at Boulogne, after a passage of 12 hours. We remained there till 2 o'clock the next day.
<i>Samers</i> - -	2	9	T.	16	
<i>Cormont</i> - -	1	5			
<i>Montreuil</i> - -	1 1/2	7 1/2			
<i>Nampont</i> - -	1 1/2	8 1/2			
<i>Bernay</i> - -	1	5 1/2			
<i>Nouvion</i> - -	1	5			
<i>ABBEVILLE</i> - -	1 1/2	8 1/2			Slept.
<i>Ailly</i> - -	1 1/2	7 1/2			
<i>Flixcourt</i> - -	1 1/4	6 1/4			
<i>Pecquigny</i> - -	1	6 1/4			
<i>AMIENS</i> - -	1 1/2	7 1/4	F.	17	Dined.
<i>Hébécourt</i> - -	1	6			
<i>Flers</i> - -	1	5 1/4			
<i>Breteuil</i> - -	1 1/2	7 1/4			Slept.
<i>Wavigny</i> - -	1 1/2	6 1/4			
<i>St. Just</i> - -	1	4 1/2			
<i>Clermont</i> - -	2	9 1/2			
<i>Lingueville</i> - -	1 1/4	6			

* With regard to the distances in English miles, I have always, when I have had an opportunity, availed myself of Duten's Itinerary, which I have found very useful, and on the whole extremely correct. It is a book which every traveller ought to be in possession of;

Names of Places.	Posts.	Eng- miles.	Days.	Mths.	Curfory Remarks.
to Chantilly - -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	S.	Feb. 18	Dined.
Luzarches - -	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 $\frac{1}{4}$			
Ecouen - -	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	7			
St. Denis - -	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	5			
PARIS - -	1	6			Arrived at Pa- ris, where we re- mained till the following Friday.
Charenton -	1	37	F.	24	
Villeneuve -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$				
Lieurfaint -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$				
MELUN -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$				
Fontainebleau	2				
Nemours - -	2	10			
La Croisière	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Fontenay -	1	5			
Puits-la-laude	1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Montargis -	1	5			Slept.
La Commodité	1	6 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Nogent - -	1	5			
La Buffière -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Briare - -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	S.	25	Dined.
Neuvy - -	2	12			
Cosne - -	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$			Slept.
Pouilly -	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	10			
LA CHARITÉ	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	9			
Pougues - -	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	8			
NEVERS - -	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$			Dined and slept.
Magny - -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$			
St. Pierre-le- Moutier -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 7			
St. Imbert -	1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Villeneuve -	1	5			
MOULINS -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	M.	27	Dined.
Beffay - -	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	8			
Varenne - -	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	10			
St. Gerand-le- Puy - -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$			
La Palisse -	1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$			Slept.
Droiturier -	1	5			

ITINERARY.

xvii

Names of Places.	Posts.	Eng. miles.	Days.	Mths.	Curfory Remarks.
				Feb.	
to St. Martin	} 1	{ 5			
d'Estreaux -	1	5½			
La Pacaudiere	1	5½			
St. Germain	} 1½	{ 6½			
'Espinasse	1½	7½	T.	28	Dined.
ROANNE -	1½	7½			
L'Hôpital -	1	5			
St. Symphorien	1	5½			
La Fontaine	1	7			
Tarare - -	1½	7			Slept.
Les Arnas -	1½	7			
La Tour de Sal-	} 2	{ 10			
vagny - -	2	10			
Lyon - -	1½	7	W.	29	Arrived at Lyons, where we remained till Friday.
St. Fond -	1	5½			
St. Symphorien	1	6		March	
VIENNE - -	1½	9	F.	2	Breakfasted.
Anberive -	2	10			
Le Péage -	1	4½			
St. Rambert	1½	7			
St. Vallier -	1½	7½			
Tain - -	1½	8			
Valence - -	2½	11½			Slept.
La Paillasse -	1½	7			
Loriol - -	1½	7			
Laine - -	1½	7½			
Montélimart	1½	7			
Donzère -	2	11			
Pierrelatte -	1	5			
La Palu -	1	5			
Mornas - -	1½	8			
Orange - -	1½	7	S.	3	Slept.
Courthezon	1	6			
AVIGNON -	2½	13	G.	4	Dined.
Rémoulins -	3½	13			Slept.
St. Gervasy -	1	30	M.	5	Dined.
NISMES - -	1	30			

Names of Places.	Posts.	Eng. miles.	Days.	Mths.	Curfory Remarks.
				March	
to Curboffot -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	40			We were obliged to sleep at Beaucaire on the other side of the Rhone, arriving there too late to cross the river in the ferry-boat.
Tarascon -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$				
St. Remy -	2		T.	6	Dined.
Orgon -	2				
Le Pont Royal	2	11	W.	7	Slept.
St. Canât -	2	11			
Aix -	2	12			
Le Pin -	2	10			
MARSEILLE	2	10			Arrived at Mar-
					feilles, where I re-
Posts	139 $\frac{1}{2}$	801 $\frac{1}{2}$	Miles.		remained till the
					following Tues-
					day *.
MILO -			F.	30	Arrived at Mi-
					lo, where I re-
					remained till the 3d
					of April.
SMYRNA -			F.	April 6	Arrived at Smyr-
					na, where I re-
					remained till the
					25th.

* My principal view in noticing the places at which we dined and slept, is to shew, in some measure, the rate at which we travelled, and to point out our method of dividing our journey.

ITINERARY.

ix

Names of Places.	Hours.	Days.	Mths.	Curfory Remarks.
				Aptil
From SMYRNA				
to Yakai *	3	W.	25	Slept.
MAGNESIA	6			
Palamout	4	T.	26	Do.
Kalembeh				
Alkapana	13	{ F.	{ 27	{ Do.
(wood)				
Geulgouck	4	S.	28	Breakfasted.
Mendahoura	8			Slept.
In a wood	7	G.	29	Dined.
Chiltikni	6			Slept.
Maaristch	6	M.	30	Dined.
Chatalaga	7			Slept.
Chechirgui	5	T.	May 1	Breakfasted.
BRUSA	1			Arrived at Brusa a-
				bout mid-day, where
				we remained till the
				next morning.
In a field	10	W.	2	Dined.
Yalova	10			Embarked at Yalova
				about six o'clock in
				the morning, and af-
CONSTANTI-				ter a sail of eleven
NOPLE		T.	3	hours, arrived at Con-
				stantinople, where we
Hours.	90			remained till the 10th.
				We travelled from
				Smyrna to Yalova, on
				an average, at the rate
				of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles an
				hour. The number
				of hours we were on
				horseback amounts to
				ninety. The distance
				must therefore be a-
				bout 315 English
				miles †.

* All travellers, I observe, spell the names of the Turkish villages in a different manner. I have adopted that which, to my ear, most resembles the Turkish pronunciation.

† Not having a Pedometer with me, I am obliged to trust to calculation.

ITINERARY.

Names of Places.	Days.	Mths.	Curfory Remarks.
			May
From CONSTANTINOPLE to Bujukderé - - -	T.	{ 10 }	Slept.
Cavarna - - -	S.	13	Arrived at Cavarna, where we remained till the 15th.
Delenibeh - - -	T.	15	Slept.
Valaleh - - -	W.	16	Do.
Cajarmari - - -	T.	17	Do.
Raffovat - - -	F.	18	Arrived at Raffovat, where we remained till the 20th.
			From Cavarna to Raf- fovot, we travelled about seven hours a day, and about three miles an hour.—The intermediate distance will therefore be about 84 English miles.
Ibrail - - -	T.	22	At Ibrail our boat re- mained at anchor all night.
Galatz - - -	W.	23	Arrived at Galatz, where we remained till the 5th of June.
			June
Scherbest - - -	T.	5	Dined.
Peneo - - -	-	-	Slept.
Serbenest - - -	W.	6	Dined and slept.
Suray - - -	T.	7	Dined.
Fokshan - - -	-	-	Arrived at Fokshan, where we remained till the 9th.
Tirkukoli - - -	S.	9	Slept.
Ribnick - - -	G.	10	Dined.
Marachini - - -	-	-	Slept.
Busco - - -	M.	11	Dined.
Marzinin - - -	-	-	Slept.
Craltza - - -	T.	12	Dined,
Aformatzi - - -	-	-	Slept.

ITINERARY.

xxi

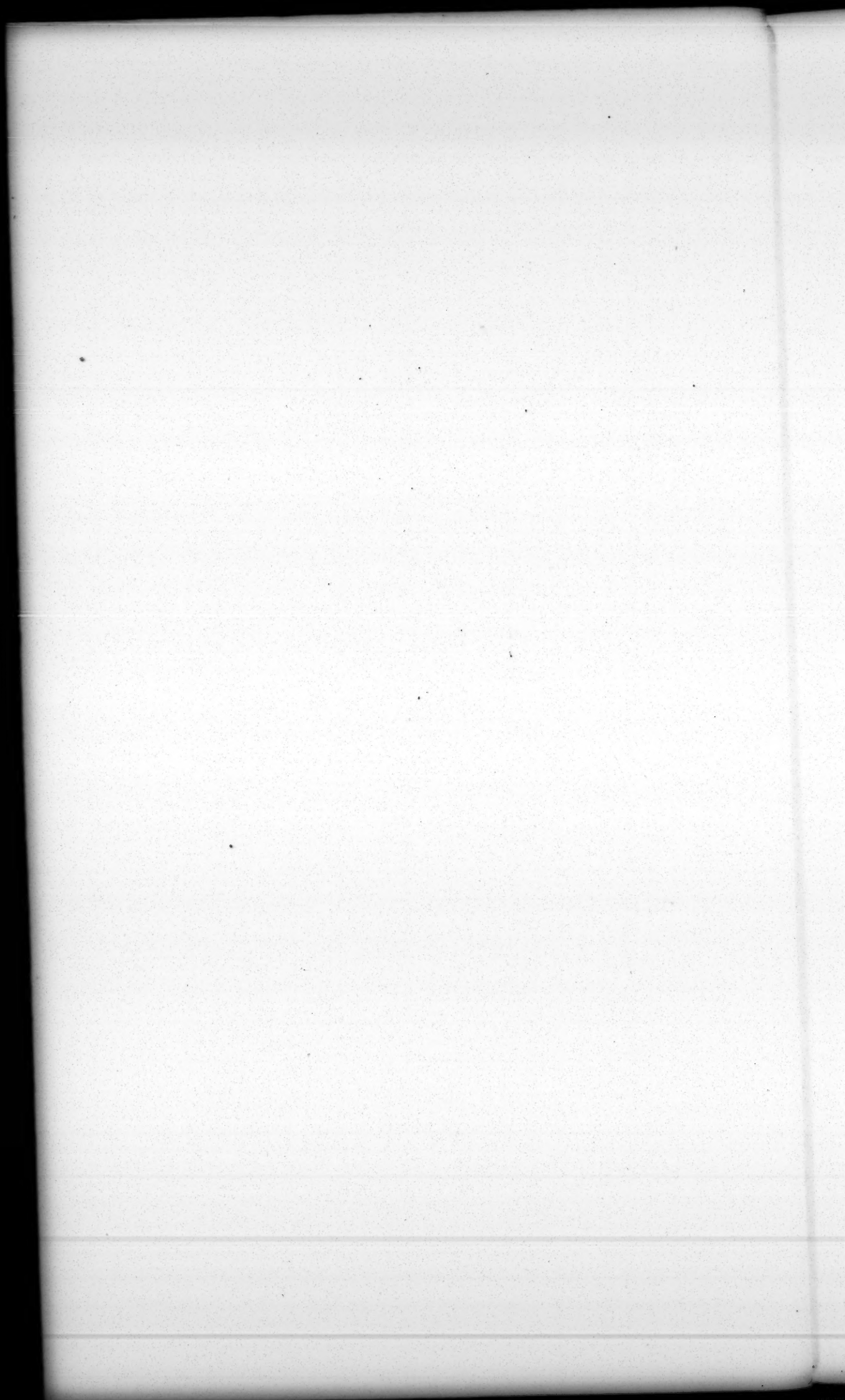
Names of Places.	Hours.	Days.	Mchs.	Curfory Remarks.
to BUCHOREST		W.	13	Arrived at Buchoreft, where we remained till the 18th.
				From Galatz to Buchoreft, reckoning feven travelling days at eight hours a day and four miles an hour, the intermediate diftance will amount to 224 Englifh miles.
Florefti - -	5	M.	18	Slept.
Guyeffi - -	6			Breakfafted.
Peteffi - -	4	T.	19	
Batchefki - -	3½			
Rinnic - -	8	W.	20	We were obliged to fleep in our carriage at a fmall village on the eaftern fide of the Alt, arriving too late to pafs the river in the ferryboat.
Luftri - -	6			
Kineni - -	3			
Lazaretto of Tour Rouge	} 1½			Arrived at the Lazaretto of Tour Rouge, where we were obliged to perform a quarantine of ten days.
Hours	37			From Buchoreft to Tour Rouge, we travelled at the rate of about fix miles an hour.—The number of travelling hours amounts to 37.—The diftance muft therefore be about 222 Englifh miles.

Names of Places.	Posts.	Days	Mths.	Curfory Remarks.
From the Lazaretto of Tour Rouge to HERMANSTADT -	3	S.	June 30	Dined and slept.
Magh - - -	1			
Reismark - - -	1			
Mullenbach - - -	1			
Schiboth - - -	1			
Szaszvaros - - -	1 1/2			
Deva - - -	1 1/2			
Lefnek - - -	1			
Dobra - - -	1			
Crofzed - - -	1			
Roslova - - -	1			
Fafzed - - -	1			
Boschur - - -	1			
Lugos - - -	1 1/2			
Szinerfzeg - - -	1			
Kefveres - - -	1		July	
THMESWAR - - -	2	T.	3	Breakfasted and dined.
Klein Petzkeret - - -	1			
Czadat - - -	1			
Komlos - - -	1			
Mokrin - - -	1			
Klein Kanischa - - -	1 1/2			
SZEREDIN - - -	2			
Szatmacy - - -	1			
Kistelch - - -	1			
Petery - - -	1			
Felegyhaza - - -	1			
Paka - - -	1			
Kettkemet - - -	1			
Foldeak - - -	1			
Oerkeny - - -	1			
Inares - - -	1			
Ocsa - - -	1			
Sarokfar - - -	1			
BUDA - - -	1 1/2	T.	5	Dined and slept.
Vorosvar - - -	1			
Dorrog - - -	1 1/2			
Neudorf - - -	1			
Nesmuhl - - -	1			

ITINERARY.

xxiii

Names of Places.	Posts.	Days.	Mths.	Curfory Remarks.
			July	
to COMORN - - -	1			
Ais - - -	1			
Gony - - -	1			
RAAB - - -	1			
Hochstraß - - -	1			
Weißelburg - - -	2			
Rakgendorf - - -	1			
PRESBURG - - -	1½	S.	7	Breakfasted and dined.
Altenburg - - -	1			
Rögelßbrun - - -	1			
Fischament - - -	1			
Schwechat - - -	1			
WIEN - - -	1			
Posts	60½			
				The number of Posts from Tour Rouge to Vienna amounts to 60½. Reckoning, on an average, nine English miles to each post, the distance will be 544½ English miles.



C O N T E N T S

OF THE

FIRST VOLUME.

LETTER I.

INTRODUCTORY *matter* - Page 1

LETTER II.

Passage from Dover to Boulogne—Anecdote of a lusty gentleman - - 5

LETTER III.

Total change of manners in France—Knowles's hotel—Boulogne—Montreuil—Abbeville—Amiens—State of the manufactures—The cathedral—Clermont—Beggars—Particular account of one—Chantilly—St. Denis—Arrive at Paris - - - - 13

LETTER IV.

Paris—Confinement of the king—Palace and gardens of the Thuilleries—The Louvre—Inhumanity of the Parisians exemplified in a particular instance—Coffee-houses—Violence of parties—Comédie Italienne—The queen—French actors and actresses—National Assembly—Church of St. Genevieve—Place Victoire - - p. 30

LETTER V.

Leave Paris—Melun—Fontainebleau—The palace—Game—Fish ponds—Montargis—Briare—La Charité—Pougues—Nevers—Physician—Hospitality, in what it consists—Moulins—Steel manufactory—Tomb of the duke of Montmorenci—Roanne—Tarare - - - 51

LETTER VI.

Description of Lyons and its environs—Place de Bellecour—Hotel de Ville—Jesuits' college—Abbey of Aignay—Monastery of Carthusians—Barbarous treatment of the

<i>monks—Convent of Carmelite nuns—Dis-</i>		
<i>treffs of the abbess</i>	-	p. 66

LETTER VII.

<i>Leave Lyons—Vienne—Pontius Pilate—</i>		
<i>Tain—Orange—Antiquities of that place</i>		
<i>—The circus—Triumphal arch—Avignon</i>		
<i>—Number of ecclesiastics—Disorders there</i>		
<i>—The pope—Church of the Penitens Noirs</i>		
<i>—Laura and Petrarch—Pont du Gard—</i>		
<i>Nîmes—Description of that city—The</i>		
<i>amphitheatre—Maison Carrée—The Tour</i>		
<i>Magne—Beaucaire—Incivility and impo-</i>		
<i>sition of our landlord—Provence distin-</i>		
<i>guished for its republican spirit—Orgon—</i>		
<i>Insolence of the postmaster—St. Canât—</i>		
<i>The country infested with robbers—Aix—</i>		
<i>The cathedral—Roads to Marseilles in a</i>		
<i>dreadful state—Beauty and fertility of the</i>		
<i>country—Arrive at Marseilles</i>	-	79

LETTER VIII.

<i>Description of Marseilles and its environs—</i>		
<i>Civil dissensions there</i>	-	107

LETTER IX.

Marseilles—The new town—Degeneracy of the French stage—Revolution in France—Character of the French and English contrasted - - - p. 120

LETTER X.

Passage from Marseilles to Smyrna—Unpleasantly situated on board a French vessel—Malta—Cape Matapan, inhabited by a race of pirates—Chased by a piratical vessel—Cowardice of our captain—Cerigo—Arrive at Milo—Description of that island and its inhabitants—Hospitality of a priest—Vast quantity of mineral substances—The harbour—Anecdote of a Venetian captain—Inhumanity of pirates—Leave Milo—Timo—Nisaria—Paros—Naxos—Delos—Sailing in the Archipelago delightful—Scio—Description of that island—The mastich—Chesmé—Naval engagement there—Mitylene—Enter the gulph of Smyrna—Marine castle—Situation of Smyrna—Arrive there 144

LETTER XI.

Smyrna—Its inhabitants—Its trade, particularly with Great Britain—Necessity of a lazaretto in England—Armenians and Jews act as brokers—Porters—Description of the city—The police—No antiquities at Smyrna—The river Meles—Camels—The plague—Account of that disorder—Indifference of a Turk—The precautions which the Franks adopt, a great security against it—Hospitals—Anecdote of two Russian doctors—Environs of Smyrna—Teos—Bournabat—Sailing in the bay—Provisions—Climate—Appearance and productions of the country—Ephesus - - - p. 185

LETTER XII.

Leave Smyrna—Society of that place—The Casino—Mode of travelling in Turkey—Preparations necessary for our journey—Yakai—Road over Mount Sipylus—Magnesia—Obstinacy of one of our drivers—Palamout—Inhospitability of that place—Fine view of Kircagatch—A place of con-

considerable trade—Cotton grounds—Anecdotes of an aga called Carra Osman Og-lou—Sleep on the confines of a wood—Meet a Turk and his wife travelling—Gaulgouck—Description of the coffee-houses in Turkey—Low cunning of a Turk—Description of the Turkish vil-lages—Badness of the roads—Menda-houra—Astonishing number of storks—Holden in great veneration by the Turks—Make a repast in a wood—The pleasures of a pastoral life—Meet the courier from Constantinople—Regulations of the post in Turkey—A pacha encamped before a village—Ruins of an aqueduct—Arrive at Maarlitch—Lament not visiting the shores of Troy - - - p. 242

LETTER XIII.

Maarlitch—Its situation and extent—Change our horses—Description of the one allotted to me—Leave Maarlitch—Ruins of a castle—Northerly wind—Turks shout to keep themselves warm—Anecdote of one of our mule-drivers—Pass a beautiful lake—Nightingales—Description of the baths at

*Chechirgui—Curiosity of the people—
 Anecdote of our janizary—Arrive at
 Brusa—Description of that city and its
 manufactures—Silk—How it was intro-
 duced into Europe—Moschs and colleges—
 Politeness of a Jew—Indolence of the
 Turks—Account of the ramazan, or
 Turkish lent—Caravansaries—Curiosity
 of a Turk—Leave Brusa—Description of
 a beautiful view—Pass an arm of the
 sea, where some Turks are building a
 ship—Travel all night—Badness of the
 road—Arrive at Yalova—Embark there
 —Arrive at Constantinople—The sea of
 Marmara - - - P. 277*

LETTER XIV.

*Description of Constantinople—Extent of the
 city—Its various revolutions—The hippo-
 drome—Throwing the jirid, a favourite
 amusement of the Turks—Obelisks and
 brazen pillar in the hippodrome—Mean
 revenge of Mahomet II.—The moschs—
 St. Sophia. - - - 312*





A
PART OF EUROPE

AUTHOR

Drawn by J. Enouy, Geog.
And engr.



A MAP OF
OF EUROPE AND ASIA,
with the
AUTHOR'S ROUTE.

by Geo. F. under the immediate inspection of the Author.
And engraved by E. Woodthorpe, 27. Fetter Lane London.





48
46
44
42
40
38

5 Long. E.



Long. E. from London.

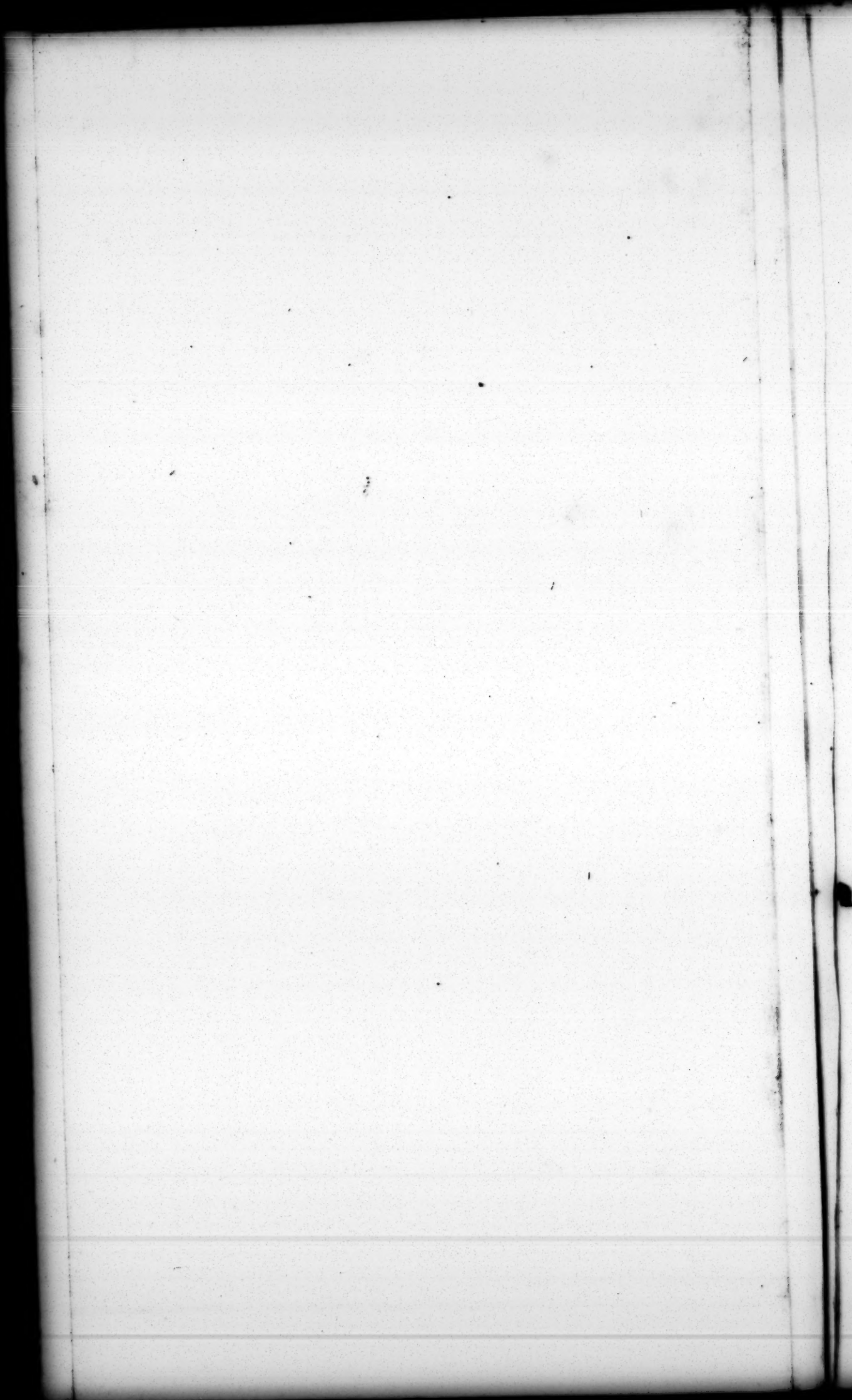
10

15

London: Published May 1st 1798. by J. White. Fleet Street.







TRAVELS
THROUGH
FRANCE, TURKEY, &c.

LETTER I.

London, Feb. 13, 1792.

My dear Eliza,

I FEEL myself very much flattered by your earnest and repeated solicitations that I would transmit to you an account of the tour which I commence to-morrow. Were I to resist any longer, I should give proofs of an obstinacy very incompatible with my feelings, and assume a consequence to which I am by

VOL. I.

B

no means entitled. And I consent with less reluctance, from a conviction that your candour will make a proper allowance for the defects with which it may abound, and that your partiality, if it induce you not to approve, will at least prevent you from condemning, that plan of communication which, after some reflection, I have at length determined to adopt.

It is not my intention to enter into a minute detail of every thing which may excite my curiosity in the course of my travels. What I shall see, has been seen before; and when you are desirous of obtaining more particular information than I shall convey, there are many books to which you may refer with satisfaction. To be continually describing the exact height of an obelisk, or the scrupulous

dimensions of an amphitheatre, is not only a tedious task to the writer, but renders the narrative dull, and, generally, uninteresting. These elaborate delineations may, indeed, be useful to the architect, and may be pored over with enthusiasm by the antiquarian; but they will not be relished by the mind of delicacy, sentiment, and taste. If, therefore, I should ever investigate with such precise accuracy; if I should sometimes depict the size of an area, or expatiate on the measurement of a column, my only view will be to impress you with a just estimation of some of those stupendous productions of antiquity, which neither the injuries of time, nor the ruder assaults of man, have yet been able to destroy. I do not, however, propose to bind myself down by any fixed rules. My digressions

will, perhaps, be numerous. Sometimes I shall obey the sober dictates of reason; sometimes I shall pursue the path which fancy traces out; and, now and then, I may allow the captivating allurements of imagination to seduce me.

If this plan be desultory, I have only sketched it out, because I conceive that it will afford you more entertainment than any other: for there is an irresistible charm in variety which carries the feelings lightly along, and which, very frequently, more than compensates for the absence of qualities whose intrinsic merits admit of no comparison.

Yours, &c.

LETTER II.

Boulogne, Feb. 15, 1792.

YESTERDAY morning, at ten o'clock, we set sail from Dover with a fair wind; but had not proceeded on our voyage above a couple of miles, when Fortune forsook us. The sky which, but a few minutes before, was bright and serene, became overcast, and every symptom portended a tedious and uncomfortable passage. The wind blew so directly from Calais, that it was in vain to attempt to reach the place of our destination, and the captain informed us, that, unless we consented to anchor at Boulogne, we must inevitably pass the night in his

vessel. Although some of the passengers were under the necessity of visiting Calais, they chose rather to incur the inconvenience of being landed twenty miles from it, than to run the risk of remaining all night at sea, without refreshments, and in a place where the accommodations were not likely to invite repose. Swayed, therefore, by these considerations, we unanimously agreed to go to Boulogne.

At ten o'clock at night we were nearly two miles from the harbour, with no prospect of advancing much farther, on account of the shallowness of the water (the tide being out), when two boats passed us with great rapidity. One of them, shortly after, brought to, and, coming along-side our vessel, offered to carry us ashore. The proposal was too

enticing not to be readily accepted ; and, in less than three minutes, all the passengers, who were sixteen in number, had, by some means or other, found their way into the boat. Fortunately it was large enough to contain us ; for had it been but half the size, no entreaties would, I believe, have restrained our impatience, or have prevailed on any one not to quit the packet, where we had been confined so long, and suffered so much.

We had just arranged our baggage, and taken our seats, when the other boat came up, and its owners were very desirous of receiving some of us on board ; but we were all too languid to undergo the exertion of a second change of situation. As, however, we had but two rowers with us, we intimated a wish that they would contribute their aid, and

tow us into port. This motion our heroes considered, I fancy, as a direct attack on their characters and skill; for they rejected it with scorn, replying, that they knew their duty as seamen, and required no assistance. We yielded; but the other boat was hardly out of sight, when we had ample reason to condemn our blind confidence.

By this time the strength of our men was nearly exhausted, and, soon after, we found that the alternate ebb and flow of the tide had driven us on some rocks. The night was dark; the wind tempestuous; the sea high; and, to crown our comforts, it rained plentifully. We now inquired, with solicitude, how long it might be before they could land us; and, astonishing as it may appear, it is nevertheless a fact, that these fellows, who were fisher-

men, and whose sole occupation, for many years past, had been that of sailing along the coast near Boulogne, so far from answering our question, could not even inform us where we were. We deplored and execrated their stupidity, but could do no more. One moment riding on a boisterous wave, the next bumping on an inhospitable rock, our danger evidently increased, and we, at length, began to be alarmed about our situation.

After a short consultation, we resolved to make a general shout, in hopes of being answered from the shore; but it was without effect. About half an hour after, our boat beginning to fill with water, and our impatience and apprehensions augmenting, we exerted our lungs a second time, and sent forth a most vigorous but

discordant yell, which was responded in such similar tones, that, in a less anxious and irksome situation, they might easily have been mistaken for the echo. Grating to the ear as these vocal sounds most assuredly would have been on any other occasion, they were then listened to with ecstasy, nor could the most melodious strains have yielded a more satisfactory entertainment. We regarded them as the forerunners of relief, and were not disappointed; for, in a few minutes, our boat was surrounded by a troop of women, who, by the light of a lanthorn, after wading above a quarter of a mile through the water, had discovered us. You may possibly be conjecturing what women could have to do, up to the knees in water, at this time of night; but, in this *polished* part of the world, the office,

of carrying passengers from the boats to the shore, is allotted to the female sex.

There was with us a very lusty gentleman, who was particularly anxious to avail himself of the conveyance with all possible expedition; but no sooner had one of these Amazons approached, and surveyed his bulk, than she turned her back towards some lighter burden. He was left the last in the boat, when an elderly matron, who had certainly lived long in the world without gaining much experience, was intrepid enough to venture to receive him on her shoulders; but when she had accomplished little more than half her journey, she was so oppressed with fatigue, that she let him fall into the water. Not being able to speak a word of French, he vented his rage by uttering a few English oaths, expressive

of Gallic awkwardness, which were neither attended to nor understood. In this dilemma, his conductress deserted him, and he was obliged to follow her to the inn on foot.

A good supper soon drove away all unpleasant sensations, and every one had some little anecdote to relate which contributed to promote conviviality. Thus it is, the remembrance of past misfortunes and embarrassments serves to enhance the pleasure of present comfort and security.

Yours, &c.

LETTER III.

Paris, Feb. 19, 1792.

THOSE sensations, which are generally experienced by Englishmen on their arrival in France for the first time, occasioned by a sudden and total change of customs, language, dress, and of even the face of the country, were felt by me near eight years ago. I well recollect that then, every thing I beheld appeared like a dream, nor could I immediately reconcile the conclusions of my reason with the evidence of my senses. The contrast, in this respect, having lost its novelty (and my mind anticipating

what was to happen), was by no means so striking. But when I witnessed, and contemplated, that total revolution of sentiment and manners which little more than three years has accomplished, I was almost equally surprised. The brow of the aged was lowering; the cheek of the young was not clothed with its accustomed cheerfulness; in short, that gaiety of heart, which had so long been the enviable characteristic of Frenchmen, was no longer apparent. A thoughtfulness, an anxiety, was visible in every countenance, and the effects which proceed from uncertainty, poverty, and distress, were openly betrayed.

From the moment I set my foot in France, specie vanished from my eyes, and nothing but paper, issued according

to present exigency, and without any substantial fund to support its credit, was to be seen.

I whispered to my friend H——*: Affairs cannot remain long in this deplorable state; for no people, that has once tasted happiness, will voluntarily relinquish it, or be persuaded to submit to a change of government which can insure nothing but misery and degradation.

But I shall delay the discussion of political topics, until I have collected sufficient materials to enable me to deliver my sentiments with some degree of accuracy and decision.

On our arrival at Boulogne, we put up at Knowles's Hotel, imagining, from a natural and honourable predilection

* This Gentleman accompanied me from London to Marseilles.

which our countrymen so generally feel, that, as it was an English house, we should be less liable to imposition. But I was a good deal mortified to find, that the charges which they made were very far from confirming this favourable opinion. They were exorbitant in every respect; and they obliged us to pay, for the hire of a carriage to Paris, as much as ought fairly to have purchased it. I am at a loss to conceive how any person, who lives by the favour of the public, can be so foolishly blind to his interest, as to carry on business, on a system of imposition. All his calculations of gain must prove fallacious, and it must, in the end, turn out an unprofitable plan; for travellers do not easily forget, or forgive, bad usage, and are very careful not to put themselves, a second time, in the

power of a landlord who has pillaged them once.

After an early dinner on the 15th, we left Boulogne, which is a large city, with strong fortifications, rather well built than otherwise, and contains about thirty thousand inhabitants, ten thousand of which are national guards: such is the ardour for military fame which at present pervades France! I was informed, that, a few years back, the English smugglers paid annually, to the people of this place, between three and four millions of livres; but that the vigorous exertions of our government had so considerably reduced the profits of this illicit traffic, that it was now scarcely worth pursuing: a clear proof of the utility of the regulations which have been enacted for its suppression!

We passed through Montreuil just as it was beginning to grow dusky. Whilst they were changing our horses at the post-house, half a dozen drunken soldiers, in the national uniform, whose vociferations we had heard from some distance, furrounded our carriage rather tumultuously, exclaiming, "Voilà des Aristocrates!" We assured them, that, on the contrary, we were Englishmen, and sincere patriots. These last words satisfied them, and they civilly wished us a pleasant journey. I only mention this anecdote to convince you that the aristocratical party is still regarded with an eye of jealousy and dread; and had we turned out, what they at first suspected we were, we should, probably, have met with some rough treatment.

On the 16th, we slept at Abbeville,

which, after Amiens, is the largest city in Picardy. It is well fortified, and carries on a considerable trade, particularly in broad cloth, the manufacture of which is in high repute.

On the 17th, we stopped to dine at Amiens, which is a large, handsome, and strongly fortified city, standing in a pleasant situation on the banks of the Somme. The streets are wide and regular, the squares spacious, and the houses substantially built.

Very extensive woollen manufactures were, till lately, carried on at this place; but almost every branch of trade has received a fatal shock; and such is, at present, the small demand here, for the productions of peaceful industry, that upwards of twelve thousand poor artisans are without employ, bitterly lament-

ing those convulsions which have deprived them and their families of bread, and cursing those agents whose folly or wickedness has thrown every thing into confusion, and completely deranged the economy of social life.

Whilst dinner was preparing, I went to see the cathedral, which is one of the most magnificent Gothic buildings in the kingdom; but since the neglect of religion, and the persecution of the priests, the splendour of the French churches has been fast declining; and all the most costly decorations, which formerly graced the inside of this, have been deemed superfluous, and have been removed by the sacrilegious hand of some public plunderer.

No sooner does your carriage stop, in any town or village in France, than it is

immediately thronged with beggars, who earnestly implore your relief. Since the revolution, their number has been considerably augmented. At Clermont, one man in particular attracted our notice. Even his companions in misfortune seemed to be anxious for the success of his application, and, in their concern for his miseries, to forget their own. He was really an object worthy of compassion. Every feature of his face was distorted, and the pallid languor which was imprinted on his countenance, too strikingly, I fear, portrayed the measure of his sufferings. Yet there was a kind of placidness in his deportment which, at intervals, expunged the picture of woe, the accumulated afflictions of many years had been contracting and confirming, and which warranted one to say:—That man,

however defective he may be in other respects, possesses a good heart. He interested our feelings very much, and, inquiring into the circumstances of his fortune, we found that, in addition to all his other calamities, his reason was impaired. How the sympathetic breast is torn by the review of such complicated misery! If the mind be vigorous, all corporeal imperfections and infirmities may be contemplated with philosophy, and borne with fortitude: but, when mental imbecility unites with bodily disease; when the grand mound which separates, and distinguishes, man from the brute creation is levelled; the prospect is too afflicting to behold. Happy, indeed, that the sufferer is unacquainted with the severity of his lot; for the thorough perception and conviction of a derangement

of intellect, must, I think, be the most horrid and excruciating torture that can enter into the imagination of man.

When, my friend, we observe that every corner of the habitable world teems with wretchedness, and furnishes instances of humiliation, how thankful ought he to be, who is blessed with the full enjoyment of all his faculties! how careful to avoid an improper application of them! how studious to improve and extend their various powers! A peaceful mind strengthens the body; a healthy body invigorates the mind; and as it is our duty and our interest to avoid, as much as possible, both bodily pain and mental perturbation, we should never allow ourselves to neglect those cautions or remedies which administer to the advantage of either. But although it be in-

cumbent on us to pay a sufficient attention to the body to preserve its health and activity, it is the mind which demands our principal care and sollicitude; for it is the salient source of every permanent satisfaction and enjoyment of life. When it has been once habituated to virtue; when it has been cultivated with assiduity, and properly stocked with useful and ornamental knowledge; a man may then, and *then only*, consider himself independent. He will be respectable in every situation, and the inexhaustible fund of satisfaction and amusement which he possesses within himself, will cheer and support his heart under the heaviest pressures and afflictions which can befall him, will mitigate his sufferings on the bed of sickness, and yield him society amidst the horrors of a dungeon. Riches

and rank may be lulled by the soothing accents of purchased adulation; but talents and merit will meet with demonstrations of true respect, and be gratified with the voice of manly praise. They attach a kind of stability to our fortune, which is secured from the perils of every shock, and place us, in a manner, beyond the reach of fate. They learn us to view with contempt, or to bear with magnanimity, the poison of malice, the coldness of indifference, or the undisguised attacks of force; and enable us to be undisturbed spectators, amidst the ruinous dispensations of death, and the most awful conflicts of nature.

Before our carriage drove off from Clermont, we ordered the postillion to give something to this poor unfortunate

man. He could just understand us, and returned a look of gratitude which spoke more feelingly to the heart, than all the graces and refinements of studied elocution.

On Saturday we dined at Chantilly, and arrived here yesterday.

The delightful palace and gardens of the prince of Condé, I saw, when I was last in France. They were then the residence of peace, plenty, and contentment: at this moment, the estate is sequestered, and its owner is an exile. Although it is still open to the inspection of the public, I felt no inclination to revisit it, in its present fallen state; for I have a mind little disposed, to receive any satisfaction from traversing the abode of spiritless dejection, or, to relish that brutal

pleasure which arises from the contemplation of injustice, rapacity, and persecution.

I was told that many things on this estate were, from absolute neglect, mouldering to decay, and that the game, which was so abundant, whilst it was preserved for the diversion of the prince, had, since his retreat, been persecuted by the peasantry with such unremitting diligence and zeal, that it is totally destroyed. Such will ever be the blind fury of the multitude ! Whenever a privilege is granted which their happiness does not require, and from the exercise of which they can derive no solid advantage, they will never rest till they have annihilated it, by exhausting the source which supplies the means of enjoyment.

Before we reached Paris, we stopped

at St. Denis, where there is a very noble church, which is also remarkable for being the burial-place of the kings of France. Some of the monuments are very magnificent, and the treasure was formerly one of the richest in Europe.

On entering the metropolis and the other great cities we passed through, we were not incommoded or delayed by the troublesome visitations and inquiries of impertinent custom-house officers, whose frequent intrusions used to be a great drawback on the pleasures of travelling in this country. This was an abuse, at the abolition of which every one must rejoice, as their services answered no good purpose, and were only a frivolous pretence for keeping them in pay.

The roads through Picardy (for I shall adhere to the ancient division of France)

are generally good. The country is open and well cultivated, and its principal production is wheat.

Yours, &c.

LETTER IV.

Paris, Feb. 23, 1792.

DURING our residence in this overgrown and populous city, so great has been our desire of employing our time to the best advantage, that even the severity of the coldest and most unpleasant weather you can well imagine, has not been able to keep us within doors.

What a strange inquisitive being man is! When his curiosity is once on the wing, no trouble appears repulsive, no obstacle insurmountable; but he levels, in his imagination, the road which is to conduct him to the conclusion of his

wishes, and allows no intermediate difficulty to check his inclination, or deter him from the pursuit.

Anxious to behold the place of the king's confinement, our first walk was to the palace of the Thuilleries, and our conductor began his observations by pointing out to us the four places, at one of which, it is conjectured, the unfortunate Louis made his escape, when he fled from his capital. Three of them are now strongly barricaded, and the other is blocked up. Since that fatal period, some national guards have been constantly stationed at the windows of his apartment; and, as if they gloried in insulting the feelings of a fallen monarch, they seemed to be emulous of rendering themselves as conspicuous as possible.

The gardens of the Thuilleries are

extensive, and are well planted with spreading trees, which divide them into several pleasant walks, where the Parisians assemble, and enjoy themselves, in the evenings of the summer months.

The external magnificence of the palace is uncommonly striking; yet, notwithstanding its superiority in that respect, from the silent gloominess which hovers round it, one would little suspect it to be the actual residence of the first magistrate of a great empire.

That too much money was formerly dissipated in maintaining the splendour of the French court, every one will readily admit: and as millions were not created to satisfy the profuseness, or administer to the caprices, of one individual, it was proper that an extravagance, which was highly detrimental to the

interests of the community, should receive a check, and be compressed within narrower limits. But, on the other hand, few will contend, that, whilst a king sits on the throne, and forms an important branch of the constitution, a nation should not generously contribute to his support, and be even jealous of the invasion of that dignity which is suitable to the importance of his office, and the elevation of his rank. For the generality of mankind is so guided and determined by the immediate impressions which they receive through the organs of sense, that they are incapable of entering into abstract and speculative points, or of carrying their observations to remote consequences. They know not how to distinguish between plainness and insignificance; and, with them, when once the

outward forms of that pomp and parade, which they have been taught to venerate, are abolished, want of respect, if not contempt, will speedily ensue.

On our return home, we passed through the Louvre, and had the mortification to see that elegant structure, on which such immense sums have been lavished, and which is considered as one of the completest specimens of architecture which modern times have produced, in a state of rapid decay. The roof of one of the fronts has fallen in, nor have they any thoughts of repairing it. It is passed every day by thousands of people, and viewed with as much unconcern, as if it had been the work of an hour, or only exhibited the wreck of some miserable hut. If Louis the XIVth were to rise from the dead, and behold

his favourite palace in this neglected and ruinous condition, how the blood would boil in his veins! Fortunate, perhaps, might it have been for the country, if his active and lofty spirit had animated the latent good qualities of the present monarch.

One morning, in the course of our rambles, we witnessed a singular and shocking instance of the inhumanity of the Parisians. A poor man had fallen down in the middle of the street, in a fit of epilepsy, where he was suffered to remain, quite unheeded, in strong convulsions. The passengers were numerous; but not one approached to his relief, or even had the charity to remove him from the danger of being crushed to death by the carriages which were continually passing. You can scarcely conceive how

I was struck with this proof of more than savage indifference; for, if Fortune had not thrown us in his way, this poor fellow would probably have lost his life. We immediately bribed the callous breasts of his countrymen, and had him conveyed to a neighbouring coffee-house, and attended to. Nor do I think that any praise is due to us for fulfilling such a duty. Benevolence, thank God! is still the companion of the heart, and any man of common humanity would, with cheerfulness, have done as much.

The whole city is split into parties, and at the corner of every principal street, the glaring letters of some inflammatory hand-bill invite the eye. All the coffee-houses are crowded with pretended politicians, who, according to their various prejudices, vent the noxious torrent of

their fury ; and groups of hirelings, half intoxicated, are every where bawling out their national airs. Even at the theatres, places which were instituted for sober relaxation and rational amusement, the boisterous voice of faction intrudes itself, and cannot be silenced. The aristocratical party, however, has lately, after a severe struggle, evidently gained ground, and is now sufficiently respectable to venture to avow itself.

A few nights ago, we went to the *Comedie Italienne*, where we were tolerably well entertained. *Caius Gracchus* was represented, a tragedy which abounds with the language and spirit of republicanism. The merit of the actor, who performed the principal character, was very ordinary ; but the plaudits, which were showered down upon him, when

he repeated a line in praise of liberty, were not easily appeased; whilst many, in another part of the house, cheered the consul with marks of their approbation, when he delivered a sentence expressive of good order, and the necessity of preserving the different ranks of society. And although the manifestations of these were generally overpowered by the shouts and hisses of the opposing demagogues, it was not without a contest. At the conclusion of the play, a most farcical incident occurred. Gracchus, who but a few minutes before had died on the stage of his wounds, was loudly called for, nor did the clamours of the pit subside till he made his appearance; when, after being gratified with repeated bursts of applause, he was again permitted to retire to the gloomy mansions of the dead.

The preceding evening, the queen, accompanied by the dauphin, honoured this theatre with her presence, which we unfortunately were not apprized of, till it was too late to go. Though I should not have beheld her with any pleasure, for I saw her many years ago, when she was still in the zenith of beauty, when she was the admiration and delight of every beholder, and when all who approached her vied with each other in tokens of applause and respect. An uninterrupted series of heavy afflictions has been long preying on her charms, and, I am told, has strangely altered her. The animation of her countenance has flown, the lustre of her eyes has vanished, and she now bears the deep-traced furrows of fixed despondency and premature old age. The box in which she sat was not distinguished

from any of the others by the most trifling decoration. It is, however, said, that she was tolerably well received, and that some few, who refused to take off their hats when she entered, were treated with indignation, and were, at last, compelled to obey the reiterated cries of the audience.

The poor queen of France, so lately an object of envy! Who can reflect on her sudden reverse of fortune, on her unmerited sufferings, on the savage insults to which she has been exposed, without being struck with that entire change of sentiment and opinion which, at present, agitates, and directs, the minds of this fickle people? Those, who once idolized the charms of beauty and the pomp of royalty, are now become their bitterest persecutors. The age of chivalry is,

indeed, gone with them, and with it, all those milder and more rational virtues by which it was supplanted. Chivalry was an enthusiasm which, as it espoused the cause of unprotected innocence, and female youth and beauty, was highly serviceable to the state of society under which it prevailed. It sprang from a noble and generous source, and was the principal instrument which tended to soften and humanise the manners of a fierce and unlettered age. A gradual alteration in laws, in professions, in ideas, at length, rendered the spirit of the institution useless; for when the ardour for military glory abated, and men began to relinquish the tumultuous pursuits of war for the more useful avocations of peaceful industry; when the legislature had acquired sufficient energy to extend its

protection to the humblest members of the community; the bands of lawless aggressors dispersed, and the services of those honourable champions were no longer required. Knight-errantry withdrew from the scene of action, and the sex, through every class of society, received the just and voluntary tribute of admiration and esteem. Wherever this rational respect, towards those who constitute so great a portion of our happiness, has never obtained, it is a proof that a people has made but very small advances in the reasonable and obvious refinements of social life: wherever it has once obtained, and is beginning to subside, it is a proof that they have lost all regard for chastity and morality, and are totally corrupted by the brutal allurements of shameless and licentious vice.

Although there are calamities to which the loss of external grandeur are as a fleeting shade, and although there cannot be any difference between the anguish of two hearts of exquisite sensibility, which have been lacerated by ingratitude, or broken by disappointment; yet, such are our prejudices, that we cannot help taking into our estimate of the afflictions endured, the trifling appendages of fortune and rank, and apportioning our compassion, in some degree, to the once splendid elevation of power and wealth.

The French actors and actresses are quite at home in comedy, and fill their characters with a natural grace and ease, which other nations have, in vain, attempted to imitate. They, however, as widely misconceive the true spirit of

tragedy ; and the finest compositions of their best authors are generally spoiled by a violence of declamation, and an impetuosity of action, which may very well represent the ungovernable fury of a maniac ; but which are totally foreign from the tender expression of that settled, ferocious sorrow, which excites all our interest, which touches every fibre of sympathy, and leaves a lasting impression on the heart. Their operas are superbly splendid in scenery and decoration, and their management of the mechanism of the theatre is wonderfully expert ; but their genius for music is as perverted, as their taste for dancing is refined.

Yesterday morning we went to the national assembly, and never were my expectations more thoroughly disappointed. Instead of that decent solemnity with

which one naturally conceives that the public affairs of a great nation are conducted, it only exhibited a scene of shameless riot and confusion; and I can compare their proceedings with nothing more aptly than with those of an English alehouse, where every one talks and nobody listens; but with this difference, that more noise was made because more members were present. The president called to his aid all the arts of gesticulation and grimace, to preserve order, and inspire respect, without gaining the desired end. Over and over again, he had recourse to the bell, whose solemn tone is the symbol of his authority; but even the energetic vibrations of that grand political engine, awful as they were, could not calm the violence of the storm. Fifty orators started up at the same moment, all equally

eager to deliver their sentiments; and when one, after mature deliberation, was named by the president, such a constant buz prevailed through the hall, that it was almost impossible to catch a word which fell from his lips. But this is not much to be wondered at, since the auditors in the galleries are permitted to argue aloud with each other, and to testify marks of their approbation and censure.

When the king visits the assembly, he is *graciously* permitted to sit at the president's right hand, and no other mark of distinction is allowed to be shewn. Such is the deference which is now paid to royalty in France!

After having observed, for about half an hour, the proceedings of this tumultuous meeting, we withdrew, with very little inclination to return. In the *con-*

Stituent assembly, there were several men of information and talents: some *few* are reported to lie concealed in this; but their exertions are so overpowered by the licentious indecency of the *many*, that they are incapable of rendering their country any service.

Our next walk was to the church of Ste. G  nevi  ve, which is one of the noblest structures in Paris, and is destined to receive the remains of those who may, in future, be thought entitled to the gratitude of the state. The ashes of Voltaire and Mirabeau, which were conveyed thither with the most ridiculous and ostentatious parade, are, for the present, deposited in a vault, and the monuments are to be erected when the money can be spared. Over the porch of this church is inscribed, in letters of gold, " Aux

grands hommes: la patrie reconnoissante;" which sentence, although it consist but of six words, is asserted by many to be deficient in point of grammatical accuracy. This, however, I shall leave to French grammarians to settle.

The *Place Victoire*, where Louis the XIVth was, by the vanity of his subjects, for so many years, crowned with laurels which he never gained, is crowded every morning with people, whose business is to buy up specie with assignats. They are said to be employed by some eminent Paris bankers, who are unwilling that their names should be made public. In clandestine transactions, there are always grounds for suspicion. In these, I understand that the offers which are made are very low, and that the full exchange is never to be expected. The statue of

the king, with all the fulsome emblems which surrounded it, has been removed, and a simple pyramidical pillar erected in its place, on which are to be recorded the triumphs of the new constitution.

Paris, on the whole, as a city, is very dirty, and very indifferently built. The streets are irregular and narrow, and, from the want of a fine pavement, the foot passengers run the risk of being crushed to death by the carriages which are continually passing, and which are driven with great fury. Many very elegant and magnificent structures are, however, dispersed through different parts of the town; and the *Palais Royal*, two or three of the squares, some of the principal hotels, and a few of the streets which have been lately built, are extremely grand and ornamental. With regard to the churches,

palaces, cabinets of curiosities, and collections of pictures and statues, these are not the times to see them. Many of them, indeed, which formerly were the delight and admiration of strangers, have already fallen a sacrifice to the savage and indiscriminate fury of the misguided populace.

To-morrow we set off for Lyons.

Yours, &c.



LETTER V.

Lyons, Feb. 29, 1792.

AFTER a pleasant journey from Paris, we arrived here this afternoon at three o'clock, and drove immediately to the *Hotel de Milan*, where we find ourselves extremely well accommodated.

A few stages beyond Paris, we stopped to change horses at Melun, which is a large town, pleasantly situated on the Seine, which forms an island within its boundaries. Two handsome bridges are thrown over the river, and the castle and two or three of the principal churches are worth noticing. It is extremely well peopled, and the inhabitants carry on a

considerable traffic in corn, flour, wine, and cheese.

When we reached Fontainebleau, the evening was just beginning to set in, so that we could not see the king's palace to any advantage; but were obliged to hurry through it, without allowing ourselves time to examine, even the pictures, with accuracy. The building has a stately appearance, rather on account of its extent than from the materials of which it is composed. It consists of several piles, erected at different times, in the disposal of which no regard has been paid to the rules of symmetry. Many of the apartments, which, collectively, are said to amount to the astonishing number of fifteen hundred, of different dimensions, are furnished with magnificence and taste, and the chapel is universally admired.

What, however, principally attracted my attention was the gallery of Francis the 1st. It is of a great length, and, in the days of that munificent and splendid prince, was frequented by his court as a morning parade. One side of it is lined with small recesses, which were then fitted up as shops, where the most elegant and costly goods were displayed. The noblemen purchased these expensive articles, and presented them to the ladies: a proof of the profuseness and gallantry of the times!

The French kings have, for many centuries, made use of this castle as a hunting seat; and the forest which surrounds it, and which contains within its limits near thirty thousand acres of well planted land, is stocked with every species of game. Since the epoch of liberty,

some of the peasantry have been audacious enough to attempt to take the pleasures of the chace within these domains; but the spirited resistance of the inhabitants of the town has hitherto proved successful.

In the ponds, near the palace, there are some carp of an astonishing size and age. None of them are allowed to be caught; and, from the protection and indulgence which are constantly shewn them, they are become so domesticated, that they follow you, in shoals, as you walk along the margin, and will even eat bread out of your hand.

The day after we left Fontainebleau, we passed through Montargis, which is situated on the banks of the Loing, a small distance from the spot where the celebrated Orleans canal forms a junction

with that river. The country which surrounds it is very pleasant, and is well stocked with wood.

A few stages beyond Montargis stands Briare, which is an insignificant place, and only remarkable for the canal which bears its name, and which unites the Seine with the Loire.

From Briare to Nevers the road runs chiefly along the prolific banks of the Loire, the vineyards begin to appear, and the eye is gratified with many beautiful and picturesque views.

Before we reached Nevers, we passed through La Charité and Pougues. The former is a large but gloomy town, and contains nothing worth seeing, but the bridge over the Loire, and the priory of Cluni.

Pougues is chiefly celebrated on account of its two fountains, whose waters are said to be very effectual in the cure of the dropfy, and some other disorders, on which account it is much resorted to by invalids.

At Nevers we were detained a day, in consequence of the breaking up of the ice on the Loire, which rendered the passage of the river dangerous. There is a handsome stone bridge over it; but, at present, it is totally useless, the two middle arches having been swept away, about a year ago, by the pressure of the water, which rose to an astonishing height. How long it will be allowed to remain in this ruinous state, it is impossible to conjecture, as they do not yet even talk of repairing it. The fortress is also worth

seeing, as well as the manufactures of glass and earthen ware, which employ a great many of the inhabitants.

In the evening my friend H—— took me to see a physician of his acquaintance, who was a very curious, facetious old fellow, and entertained us with his conversation and a supper, which were both excellent. Indeed, he produced so many good things at his table, and pressed us to partake of them with such uncommon earnestness, that I could not help being illiberal enough to suspect that he had some design against us, and wished to enroll us, for a few days, on the list of his patients. If, however, this was the case, he was disappointed, for we left Nevers, in very good health, early the next morning.

This old gentleman's entertainment,

and the persevering manner in which he insisted, that we should partake of almost every dish of which it was composed, have furnished me with a fair opportunity of troubling you with my ideas, concerning the true meaning of the term *hospitality*. I dare say they will completely accord with your own; and indeed, if they should not, as I intend to be very concise, you will, at all events, be no great loser, by reading what I have to advance on the subject.

True hospitality then, in my opinion, consists in making your house, the house of your guests; and in allowing every man, whilst he is entertained at your expence, exactly to follow his wishes; so long, at least, as they are conformable to those prescribed rules of society, which it evidently would be injudicious to abro-

gate, or dangerous to infringe. A departure from this line of conduct, is exacting a very severe penalty as the price of an invitation; for nothing can be more unpleasant to a person of good-breeding or good-sense, than to be besieged on every side, and officiously pressed to take what he has already declined. In England, however, as well as in other countries, this matter has been a good deal misunderstood. With us, in society, you are frequently obliged to drink, and in France to eat, more than you are disposed to relish:—When properly confined, they are, no doubt, both excellent things; but when carried beyond a certain pitch, they are fully as disagreeable, and are only calculated to excite disgust. The bare idea of compulsion will frequently make us nauseate what, of our own accord, we

might probably enjoy. On the contrary, rational freedom is the life and soul of every social pleasure. It sweetens every blessing, it alleviates every care, it gives a proper tone to gaiety, it stimulates the powers of discourse, and keeps the spirits in perpetual circulation. Every restraint, which a landlord imposes on his guests, is a deviation from my notions of politeness, and a breach of the genuine spirit of urbanity: and why, in this country, it should be considered as less polite to urge a man to eat against his will, than to compel him to drink, when he is already satisfied, I never could comprehend. If a gentleman, at his own table, were to say to his company, You *must* absolutely eat another slice of beef, every one would be shocked at the grossness and vulgarity of his manners; but if he insist on their taking

another glass, or even another bottle of wine, so far from being esteemed as a violation of good-breeding, it is by many regarded as the sure sign of a generous and social disposition. Now, where, in fact, lies the difference? For if the one be as disagreeable as the other to the person addressed, the transgression against the laws of hospitality must be precisely the same. Some men of strong constitutions can eat and drink plentifully, and not only have the power, but the inclination; whilst others of more delicate temperatures, are alike incompetent to both. They are contented with what nature requires, and that which she requires is, with them, very little. Every one ought, therefore, to be at full liberty to please himself, and to eat and drink according to the extent of his appetite and

inclination. For my own part, I never, from parsimony, should wish to keep the bottle from the lips of those who are dry, or, from a false and absurd principle of generosity, be anxious to force wine down the throats of those who have an aversion from drinking. This is the only method of making your guests easy and happy; and true politeness and hospitality can, I think, repose on no other foundation.

On the 27th we dined at Moulins, which is the capital of the Bourbonnois, and was formerly the residence of the ancient dukes of Bourbon. It is situated on the Allier, in the middle of a fertile and extensive plain, and is much resorted to on account of its medicinal waters. It is said to take its name from the many windmills in the neighbourhood. The inhabitants carry on a considerable traffic

in cutlery, which they bring to greater perfection than can be attained in any other part of the kingdom.

As we alighted from our carriage, we were followed into the inn by about a dozen women, who had each a portable box, containing knives, scissars, and various trinkets in steel. Every one begged, with importunity, that we would buy something; but we were deaf to their entreaties, and should, I believe, have escaped without any expence, had not, at the very moment they were withdrawing, a most lovely girl entered the room, whose solicitations it was impossible to resist. All our resolutions were immediately overpowered; and, as if by previous consent, we, without hesitation, untied our purses, and purchased almost every

thing she recommended. Such is the magical influence of beauty!

In one of the churches of this town is the tomb of the illustrious and accomplished duke of Montmorenci, who was beheaded at Thoulouse, in 1632. It was erected to his memory by his duchess, as a testimonial of her affection and regret, and is greatly admired both for the workmanship and the materials.

Leaving Moulins, we did not pass through any place of consequence till we came to Roanne, where the Loire begins to be navigable. Several rich merchants are established in this city; and the convenience of its situation for commerce, has rendered it a flourishing place.

From Roanne to Lyons, the road is hilly, and the country a good deal

resembles some parts of Derbyshire. The mountain of Tarare, which we traversed, is three miles in length, and so steep, that, to ascend it, the post horses generally require the assistance of half a dozen oxen.

Yours, &c.

LETTER VI.

Lyons, March 1, 1792.

THE country which furrounds Lyons is mountainous, but well cultivated, and the number of gentlemen's seats, which present themselves on every side, bespeaks the consequence and riches of this ancient city. Paris excepted, it surpasses every other in the kingdom, both in point of size and population. Its happy situation on the confluence of the Rhone and the Soane (two rivers which intersect the richest provinces of France) distinguishes it for its commercial advantages, and the spirit and enterprise of its inhabitants do not allow these channels of industry and

wealth to remain useless and unemployed. Its chief manufacture is silk, which is brought, in the raw state, from Provence, Piedmont, and other parts, and which, when fabricated, is distributed over half the globe.

As we have stopped here two days, I have had an opportunity of viewing almost every thing which is worthy of attention; and as they are rather numerous, to prevent confusion, I shall set down the observations which have occurred to me, in the order they were made.

The streets, like those of Paris, are in general very narrow, and the houses, which are built of stone, are too lofty to produce a pleasing effect. Many of them also, on account of the excessive heats in the summer, have windows of oiled

paper, which give them a very gloomy and inelegant appearance. Some parts of the city are, however, uncommonly handsome, particularly the quays, and the *Place de Bellecourt*, which is ornamented with a noble equestrian statue of Louis XIV, and is reckoned, both for the elegance of its buildings, and the proportion of its dimensions, one of the finest squares in Europe. The *Hotel de Ville* is much admired for its architecture and convenience; and, in the centre of the bridge over the Rhone, a cross is erected, which divides the provinces of *Lyonnois* and *Dauphiné*.

The college of the Jesuits is one of the most splendid in the kingdom, and, before the dissolution of that busy, aspiring, and dangerous order of priests, was richly endowed. The library belonging

to it, is built in the form of a cross, and consists of near sixty thousand volumes, some of which are extremely rare and valuable, and in excellent preservation. Among others, we were shewn an edition of Cicero's works in folio, printed in 1498, and taken by Louis XIV. from Louis Sforza, Duke of Milan, during the war between those two princes: also a Pliny, printed at Venice in 1472: and a Livy on vellum, in 1470, which the famous Pere de la Chaise stole from Louis XIV, and presented to this college, of which he was a member. When it is considered how shortly after the invention of the art of printing these works were published, the beauty and correctness of the type are astonishing. There are also, in this collection, several boxes of Chinese books, which were swindled

by a Jesuit from a mandarin, and are said to contain an uninterrupted history of forty-eight of the Chinese emperors. They are curiously printed on very fine paper, which is uncut, and folded together with the nicest exactness; but nobody has hitherto been found, sufficiently acquainted with the language, to translate them. A cabinet of antiquities adjoins the library; but, unfortunately, the lock of the door was deranged, which prevented us from seeing it.

Among the curiosities of Lyons there are several very respectable remains of Roman taste and splendour.

The abbey of Aisnay was formerly the athenæum, where the prize of eloquence was contended for, in the Greek and Latin languages. It was erected by Caligula; and the defeated competitors, as

a punishment for their presumption, were, by the orders of that cruel and profligate emperor, precipitated headlong into the Rhone. There is, likewise, a church of the same name, standing on the ruins of an ancient temple, which was dedicated to Augustus by the consul Lucius Munatius Plancus, the reputed founder of the city. Four stone pillars, which once belonged to the original edifice, support the choir of the present church; but, by being divided, all proportion between the height and the bulk is destroyed. Near the convent of St. Mary are to be discovered some trifling vestiges of the imperial palace, which was once the residence of Severus; and, without the gate of St. Justinus, are the ruins of a Roman aqueduct.

From the terrace of the monastery of

the Carthusians, there is a charming view of Lyons and the adjacent country. The gardens, which lie on a declivity bounded by the Soane, are planted with vines, which were formerly cultivated by the hands of the friars. This monastery, with the lands that appertained to it, has lately been confiscated, and sold at public auction : and its wretched inhabitants, who led a life of innocence and contentment within its walls ; who regarded it as the asylum of peace ; as a safe and respectable retreat from the vices and the vanities of the world ; as the boundary of their ambition on this side eternity : suddenly reduced to penury and want, are now compelled, and most of them at an advanced period of life, to begin the world again ; to seek a refuge elsewhere ; and to owe their bread to a humiliating dependence

on the fleeting generosity of an iron age. — Ill-fated men! you have my compassion, for you have been cruelly used: but what could you expect, when rogues are legislators, and legislators are enriched in proportion as they plunder; when the modesty of virtue is abashed by the impudence of vice; when wisdom is persecuted and despised, and venality encouraged and promoted; when a hardened and profane contempt of the most sacred obligations, insures applause, and levels the road to power and emolument; when an antidote has been discovered against the pangs of an accusing conscience; and every tie of nature, morality, and religion, absorbed, by the malignant poison of self-interested ambition?

Whilst I thus warmly express myself, I must add, that I am far from being an

advocate for the excessive riches and possessions which were, till lately, engrossed by the clergy of France, and which, whilst they were oppressive to the people, were very frequently bestowed on worthless objects. I recollect the misery which the intolerant and ambitious spirit of the Romish church has heaped on the human race. I recollect that, in every age of its usurpation, it has been distinguished for an avaricious, a mercenary, a cruel, an unrelenting, and a sanguinary disposition. I think we ought to look, with some degree of jealousy, on the wealth and dominion of priests in every country. I abhor superstition, which is a corrupt source of the most odious crimes, which, whilst it enslaves the mind, debases the heart, and, by holding out a pecuniary purchase of pardon, totally destroys all

reverence for virtue, and subverts the very foundation of the moral sense. But when a reform is to be introduced, it is surely right, to proceed with caution and temper, and some lenity and compassion ought to be extended to a numerous body of men, many of whom are respectable for their virtues, and eminent for their talents, and whose chief misfortune it has been, to have been born at a time, when the government of their country held out an encouragement to the profession they follow.

The convent of the Carmelite nuns, which was built by the Villeroy family, at an immense expence, is likewise, it is feared, on the eve of dissolution; for although the ornaments of the church are not yet removed, divine service is no longer suffered to be performed in it.

The great altar is magnificent, and is adorned with a picture, representing the descent of our Saviour from the cross, which ranks among Le Brun's most finished productions. One of the chapels of this church is very rich, and contains the monument of the Villeroy family, which is admirably executed.

We saw the abbess, who, with tears in her eyes, deprecated the misfortunes which she speedily expected to incur: and not without reason; for such is the sanguinary and predatory disposition of the governing faction in this wretched and distracted country, that no discrimination is made between the good and the bad; but every consideration is rendered subservient to their infatuated notions of present advantage. They forget that justice is the grand and substantial pedestal which

can alone uphold any system of jurisprudence; and that when once that divine attribute is banished from the proceedings of men, and honour is bartered, without remorse, for pecuniary compensation, they must inevitably revert to a state of dissolute barbarism and confusion.

If it were deemed politic or necessary to introduce a reform into religious establishments, and to curtail the luxuries and extravagancies of the rich benefices, even *that* ought to have been effected by degrees, and some attention ought to have been paid to the common dictates of equity and decorum. If the superfluous revenues of the opulent had been retrenched, and if those, who had merely a competency, had been allowed to enjoy it, till they were gradually removed by the hand of time, the state would have

been eventually benefited; a new and purer system of religion would have ripened to maturity; the laws of justice would not have been invaded; and the honour of the nation would have been spared. But totally to dispossess thousands, without distinction, of the whole of their property; to deprive them of their only means of subsistence; and to leave them, for future provision, at the entire disposal of chance; was an unmanly and cowardly act. It was a *public robbery* rendered more glaringly atrocious, because it was sanctioned and ordained by a *public decree*.—Oh! how power is perverted, when it is dealt out by contaminated minds!

It is late at night, and I must now conclude.

Yours, &c.

LETTER VII.

Marfeilles, March 8, 1792.

AT one time, we had some thoughts of descending the Rhone, from Lyons, as far as Avignon; but, the wind, changing to an unfavourable point, we were obliged to relinquish this plan of a water expedition, and, on the 2d, we proceeded on our journey, in the usual way.

From the road between Lyons and Vienne, we had a noble and interesting view of the Alps, whose towering summits were the majestic boundary of many a landscape, wrought by the wild and fanciful hand of Nature.

Vienne is delightfully situated on the banks of the Rhone, and is surrounded by high mountains. It is one of the most ancient cities in France, and is celebrated for being the spot, to which Pontius Pilate is reported to have been banished, when he was recalled from Jerusalem. His house, and the lake in which he drowned himself, were pointed out to us; and the church of *Notre Dame de la Vie*, which is evidently a Roman structure, is supposed (at least by the man who shewed it to us) to have been his prætorium. Very little credit is, however, given to the whole of this story by people of information; and it is a doubt with many, whether that famous personage ever resided in this city. The cathedral is a noble Gothic edifice; and the remains of a Roman amphitheatre and a triumphal

arch dispose one to entertain a very favourable opinion of the former consequence and splendour of the place.

At a small distance from the southern gate of this town, there is a handsome stone pyramid, which is conjectured to be the tomb of some ancient Roman.

Between Vienne and Auberive, but on the other side of the river, lies the spot which produces the famous Côte Rotie wine (so called from its being a bank very much exposed to the sun); and a few posts farther on, is Tain, which is a small town, situated at the foot of the Hermitage mountain, no less celebrated for the excellence and flavour of the grape which bears its name.

Leaving Tain we passed through Valence and Montélimart, both ancient and considerable towns.



The road from Vienne to Orange lies almost the whole way on the banks of the Rhone, intersecting a delicious country, which is in a high state of cultivation, and extremely productive. Meadows, woods, corn-fields, and vineyards, appear in succession, and enchant the sight with a charming variety of rich and picturesque scenery.

On the 3d we slept at Orange, the city from which the illustrious house of Nassau derives its title, and which remained in its possession, till the time of our William the III^d, when Louis the XIVth, in revenge for the glorious and successful resistance which that patriot king opposed to his ambition, confiscated the principality, and annexed it to the crown of France. It was a place of considerable consequence in the time of the

Romans, and the remains of a circus, an amphitheatre, and an aqueduct, are still extant. The circus, or, more properly speaking, the theatre, though it has suffered much from the injuries of time, is a noble ruin, and conveys a very correct idea of that kind of ancient structure. It consists, at present, of two strong walls, of a great height and length, which are separated from each other by a space of about twelve feet, and the scena and orchestra are easily discernible. There is also, without the walls of the town, a triumphal arch, supposed, from an inscription upon it, to have been dedicated to Marius, in honour of his splendid victory over the Cimbri and Tuetones. It is almost entire, and, though rather overloaded with ornaments, is of superior workmanship.

About two o'clock the following day we reached Avignon, which is a large handsome city, and agreeably situated, in a fertile country, on the banks of the Rhone. It is adorned with several noble edifices, and surrounded by a substantial stone wall, which is crowned with battlements.

The churches and monasteries are very numerous, and the streets swarm with ecclesiastics, who seem to have little else to do, than to consume the riches of the state. The lower orders of the people are contaminated by their example. They are extremely idle, and neglect to avail themselves of the natural advantages which are afforded by a navigable river and a prolific soil.

Notwithstanding this city is in the pope's territories, it has not been shel-

tered from the disorders of the times. A turbulent fellow, a blacksmith by profession, first roused the spirit of civil discord. By his boldness and activity, he soon found himself at the head of a numerous banditti, whose fury raged, for some time, without controul. This sedition, at length, got to such an alarming pitch, that it was judged necessary to send a French regiment to quell it, which effected its purpose, and secured the ringleader. Since then, he has been under strict confinement; but, as the number of his partisans is formidable, the sentence of his punishment has not been declared. This wretch, on account of the various cruelties and depredations which he has perpetrated, is regarded as an object of such hatred and horror, that

he is distinguished by the emphatic appellation of *Coupe-Gorge*.

The temporal as well as the spiritual power of the pope has, for the last two centuries, been gradually waning towards insignificance. Once the concerns of Europe were at his disposal, and he could make potentates and empires tremble at his nod: but the magic spell which, for so many ages, operated on the credulity, and enchained the resistance, of mankind, has totally vanished; and those bulls and excommunications, which formerly enforced repentance and obedience, would produce nothing now but laughter and contempt. This revolution of opinion is, however, a fortunate circumstance for mankind, and every liberal and honest mind must rejoice at the diminution of an authority, which was usurped

by artifice, retained by terroure, and employed in iniquity. The pope, at present, is a mere pageant, without either power or influence ; and, as he no longer can disturb the happiness and tranquillity of the world, justice seems to require, that he should no longer be regarded as an object of attack ; for there is something in weakness which always excites our compassion, especially when it is contrasted with the eminent superiority of past strength ; and those sufferings which are endured without the possibility of resistance or the hope of redress, must awaken some degree of sympathy in the breast of every manly and generous foe.

From 1309 to 1376 (a space of sixty-seven years) Avignon was the seat of the pontifical see, and with a considerable surrounding district has since then, a few

short intervals excepted, continued to acknowledge its sovereignty. The inhabitants, panting after liberty, and weary of their obedience to a Romish priest, have lately expressed a wish to be reunited to the kingdom of France ; and it is thought that the national assembly, after offering an indemnity to the pope too trifling to be accepted, will comply with their request.

On account of these insurrections and disturbances, almost all the churches are shut up. It was with difficulty we got admision into the chapel of the *Penitens Noirs*, which is adorned with some valuable paintings by Mignard, and contains an ivory crucifix, the workmanship of which is so admirable, that it obtained the pardon of the artist, who was under sentence of death.

I was very desirous of visiting the tomb of the beautiful Laura, whom Petrarch has immortalised by his verses. It was erected to her memory by the gallant and munificent Francis the 1st, who also wrote the epitaph. But we were very unfortunate, and, after making several fruitless inquiries for the man who had the keys of the church, we reluctantly abandoned the point. Many would not have thought it an object worth so much trouble, for the monument is a plain slab of marble, and the inscription on it is composed of two simple lines. But they were penned by the hand of a monarch who was a patron of learning, and who was himself, one of the most accomplished scholars of his age. To those minds who venerate the charms of beauty and genius, a spot, that has been thus

distinguished, awakens the most exquisite sensibility, and, through the medium of memory, conveys to the soul some of its most delightful perceptions.

It was also with deep regret that I relinquished our intended excursion to the fountain of Vaucluse, and the banks of the Sorgue, so celebrated for being the retreat of Petrarch, and which, even in his prose works, he describes in the language and with the genius of a poet.

Petrarch ranks high among the Italian classics, and the purity of his language and correctness of his taste far outstripped the age in which he lived. At the distance of upwards of four hundred years since he flourished *, he is still the delight

* Petrarch was born at Arezzo in Tuscany, the 20th of July, 1304, and died at Padua the 18th of July, 1374.—See the Abbé de Sade, *Mem. pour la Vie de Petrarque*.

of every reader who has a soul to feel those glowing expressions and tender sentiments with which his writings abound. His celebrity as a politician rivalled his fame as a poet; and he was employed in many of the most arduous negotiations of that busy period. To him, indeed, and his friend Bocace, who also resided at Avignon, the whole human race is indebted, as they were the most conspicuous among that small, but glorious and generous band, who first contributed to rekindle the spark of genius and erudition, which had been smothered for so many ages, and to distribute the sacred light of science and learning over the face of Europe.

As Nîmes was only about forty miles out of our way, we should hardly have been justified, had we allowed so good an

opportunity of visiting that renowned and ancient city to escape. It can boast of some of the noblest monuments of antiquity: and we saw there, what neither Greece nor Italy can produce.

From the summit of the hills by which we descended into the valley of Gard, we had several striking and extensive views of the plain and city of Avignon, with the windings of the Rhone, and the lofty mountains of Dauphiné.

About two or three miles before we arrived at Nîmes, we stopped to admire the famous *Pont du Gard*, which is a stupendous edifice, and a noble remnant of the splendid industry of antiquity. It is an aqueduct, consisting of three bridges, one elevated on the other, and was constructed by Agrippa to convey water to the city. The lower bridge, which is

thrown over the river Gardon, is supported by six arches, and is four hundred and ninety-eight feet long, and sixty-two high. The arch, through which the river flows, is seventy-eight feet wide, and the other five are not much narrower. The second bridge, which is thirty feet in height, and eight hundred and nineteen in length, reposes on eleven arches, nearly of the same dimensions as the first; and the bridge which sustains the aqueduct is composed of thirty-five arches, each seventeen feet wide. The aqueduct, including the thickness of the stones, is four feet wide, and five high; and the whole of this magnificent structure presents an elevation, which, from the surface of the water to its summit, measures one hundred and forty-four feet. It is

of the Tuscan order, and has altogether a most majestic appearance ; nor can it be contemplated without suggesting this reflection : that the Romans built, not only for themselves, but for future generations, determined to transmit to them living testimonies of their power, their riches, and their skill.

Nîmes is a large, well-built, and populous city, and its manufactures of silk, which are very extensive, have been brought to a high pitch of perfection by the genius and industry of its numerous artists. Its situation is truly delightful, having on one side a fertile and extensive plain, which is bounded by the Mediterranean, and, on the other, a succession of hills, which are covered with vines and fruit-trees. It is one of the most ancient

cities in Europe, and contains many admirable specimens of its former magnificence.

The amphitheatre, which is of the Tuscan order, is of an elliptical form, and its greatest diameter, including the thickness of the walls, is four hundred and five feet. The four principal entrances faced the cardinal points of the compass, and thirty-five benches (seventeen of which still remain), ranged one above the other, surrounded the inside, and accommodated, with ease, seventeen thousand people. It is built of very large blocks of stone, and is supposed to have been erected in the time of Antoninus Pius. It consists of two stories of porticos, of sixty arcades each, and the top is crowned with a parapet, below which there is a range of equidistant stone brackets, which are all

pierced, for the purpose of receiving the poles that suspended the awning over the spectators. The area, at present, is crowded with insignificant houses, which the municipality has lately purchased at a great expence, proposing to remove them, and to restore this superb edifice, in some measure, to its original splendour.

But what principally excites the admiration of the curious is the *Maison Carrée*, which was formerly a temple, consecrated to Caius and Lucius Cæsar, the adopted sons of Augustus, and is esteemed one of the most beautiful and best preserved monuments of antiquity which Europe can produce. It is of an oblong square form, from which it derives the name it now bears. The vestibule is supported by six fluted pillars of

the Corinthian order, and twenty-four corresponding half-projecting pillars, at equal distances, surround the building. The ornamental parts of the sculpture, such as the frieze and the cornice, display a delicacy of workmanship, and an exquisiteness of taste, which surpass all description. A flight of steps, which was extended along the whole front, leads to the temple. Antiquarians were very much divided in opinion, about the use of this structure, and the period of its elevation, till Mons. Segurier fell upon an ingenious method of decyphering the inscription, by applying letters, which correspond with the holes left, in the frieze, by the loss of the original ones.

The tower known, on account of its

size, by the name of the *Tour Magne*, is of a pyramidical form, and stands on the summit of a rock, from which there is a charming view of the city and the circumjacent country. Amidst the variety of conjectures on the purposes for which it was constructed by the ancients, the most probable is, that it made a part of the wall which, in those times, surrounded the town.

The other principal curiosities of Nîmes consist of a temple dedicated to Diana, which is in a very mutilated state; several marble statues, and some tessellated pavement.

The fountain, which at present supplies the city with water, and which is erected on the spot that was once occupied by the public baths of the ancients,

has not been many years finished. and is justly admired for elegance of design and solidity of materials.

We left Nîmes pretty early in the evening, that we might reach Tarascon in good time, where we purposed sleeping. But when we got to Baucaire, which is a village on the western banks of the Rhone, we had the mortification to learn, that the latest hour of the attendance of the ferry-boat was passed. We were therefore reduced to the necessity of remaining all night at a shabby inn, where the badness of the accommodations were in exact unison with the incivility of our landlord, and the extravagance of his charges. It is an observation which I have frequently made, and which in this instance was fully verified, that a gentleman is seldom so respectfully

treated, and is generally obliged to pay more, when he puts up at an inn to which people of his station are not accustomed to resort. The landlord, knowing that it is either chance, or necessity, which has thrown you in his way, and that, when once you take your leave, you will in all likelihood never return, makes the most of his good fortune, and charges you for every thing, at ten times the rate of an ordinary customer.

We arrived at Aix, the capital of Provence, on the 6th, at eleven o'clock at night, after a most unpleasant and tedious journey from Nîmes.

This province has distinguished itself, more than any other part of France, for its republican spirit, and its resistance to all good government; and, indeed, the moment we entered it, we perceived a

striking change in the manners of the people. At Orgon, the postmaster behaved very insolently, refusing obstinately to take the assignats of five livres (which are, by the by, exchanged into small money, at a discount of from thirty-two to thirty-four sols), and would not harness his horses till we threatened to seek redress from the municipality. At one time, he made use of such scurrilous language to my friend H——, with whom he was a near match, both in point of height and muscular strength, that I was afraid a battle would have ensued. If you had seen me standing between these two giants, keeping them asunder as well as I could, and employing all my eloquence to pacify them, I think you would have laughed very heartily.

From St. Canât the road is in a

wretched condition, and infested by robbers, who commit their depredations, quite unheeded by the eye of justice. Whilst we were changing horses, the postmaster came out, and, informing us of the danger of travelling to Aix by night, endeavoured to prevail on us to remain with him. He told us that we should really run the risk of our lives, as a man had been murdered, and the courier fired at, the preceding evening. But his house not having a very inviting appearance, we were not disposed to place much reliance on what he said, and, suspecting he was recounting these horrible stories merely from interested motives, we determined to proceed. When, however, we had got about half way, we met the courier, attended by two men, armed with guns and cutlasses, who were

walking at the side of his carriage. On inquiring of him, he told us that what the postmaster had related, had literally happened, which was the only reason of his travelling with guards. This was a confirmation which we could not discredit, and which raised our apprehensions so much, that we kept our pistols in our hands till we were safe within the gates of Aix.

Aix is a large and populous city, standing on an extensive and agreeable plain, which is bounded by fertile hills. The streets are spacious, and the houses are regularly and solidly built. It has long been celebrated for its baths and hot waters, which are very efficacious in gouty and scorbutic complaints.

The cathedral, in which there are several tombs of the ancient earls of Pro-

vence, is a fine Gothic structure, with a carved front, which is much admired; and the church of the Carmelites contains a beautiful picture of the resurrection by Daret, and a curious old painting by king René. The walks of the square of Orbitello are planted with trees, and adorned with fountains.

Tournefort and the marquis d'Argens were both natives of this town, and the great Frederick of Prussia erected, in the church of the Minims, a handsome monument to the memory of the latter, who, whilst living, enjoyed his patronage as a prince, and his friendship as a man.

About a fortnight ago ten thousand Marseillois marched, in a tumultuous and disorderly manner, to Aix, and disarmed the Swiss regiment quartered there. Fortunately it had received private orders to

submit, otherwise a dreadful slaughter must have ensued.

The road from Aix to Marseilles intersects a delightful country, planted with vines and olives; but it is, at present, in such a wretched condition, that, to escape being overturned, we were frequently obliged to descend from our carriage. Unless repaired, it will soon be impassable, which will put a stop to a considerable branch of the inland trade of the kingdom. A few miles before we reached Marseilles, we had a charming view of the town, the harbour, and the surrounding country, which is highly cultivated, and enlivened with innumerable little white buildings, called *Bastides**,

* The number of these houses in the neighbourhood of Marseilles are said to exceed twenty thousand. They afford a proof of the riches and population of this part of France.

which are the summer retreats of the inhabitants.

On my arrival here yesterday, I met with a most polite reception from Madame G—— (my friend H——'s sister), who insisted on my residing at her house, till I took my departure for Smyrna.

Yours, &c.

LETTER VIII.

Marseilles, March 10, 1792.

MARSEILLES*, in ancient times, was renowned for laws and arms; for its polite manners, and literary institutions; for the wisdom of its government, and the extent of its trade. It has, in some degree, retained its pre-eminence, and is still one of the most considerable and commercial cities in France. It contains about one hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants. The streets of the new town are regular and spacious; the lazaretto is

* Considering the antiquity and the extent of Marseilles, it contains very few fine churches or public buildings.

the most complete building of the kind in Europe; and the harbour is one of the best in the Mediterranean. The country in which it is situated is fertile, and the climate is mild and salubrious. Such are the advantages which it possesses, and which might secure the enjoyment of almost every thing that is desirable in life, did not the factious spirit of its inhabitants (as if despising the favours of Providence) interfere, and thwart their natural influence.

Civil dissensions have, since the revolution, been carried to a dangerous height; and they are rapidly tending towards the annihilation of all restraint.

Not long since, the populace seized a poor woman, dragged her forcibly from her house, and, after having exhausted their ingenuity by the infliction of the

most horrid and excruciating tortures, *humanely* put a period to her existence, by hanging her with the cord of a lantern which was near at hand. They alleged against her, in extenuation of these violent proceedings, a catalogue of the blackest crimes, which apparently had no foundation in truth; and I have been informed, that what principally rendered her obnoxious, was having formerly been the mistress of a magistrate, who, at the commencement of the troubles, saved himself by flight.

When the executive power is thus assumed by the body of the people, and exercised according to the dictates of fluctuating passion or momentary caprice; when all regular forms of justice are trampled on and despised; when the accused is denied the possibility of justifi-

cation ; when a deposition is regarded as a sufficient proof of guilt ; when the sacred throne of mercy is levelled with the ground, and a thirst after blood and persecution prevails ; the life of no one is safe, and it only depends on chance, who falls a victim first. But such will ever be the direful effects of ungovernable licence ! No dereliction of rectitude, no desertion of duty, no breach of humanity, ought then to surprise us ; for, when the vices of the world are not restrained by the severity of laws, the wicked, whom security always renders courageous, will no longer shrink from the face of day, or dread to stand forward as the champions of disorder. The poison which has insinuated itself into the public mind, promoting their views, they will artfully avail themselves of the blindness of the

times, and openly avow their pernicious principles: nor will they ever desist, till, by frequent assaults, they at last destroy the tottering temple of virtue, and, raising on its wreck the profane altar of iniquity, they will glory to sacrifice, to the bloody deities of their perverted imaginations, the remaining pittance of private worth.

These active citizens, not satisfied with their late expedition to Aix, have resolved on a second, to Arles, with an intention, *they say*, of attacking and dispersing the Aristocrats, who have intrenched themselves there in a formidable body. But who cannot discern their real motive? When the dispensations of equity are no longer dreaded, the mind is peculiarly fertile in expedients, and pretences for plunder are easily devised.

Every individual is compelled to wear

the national cockade ; and in order to level, as much as possible, all distinction between the rich and the poor, only one kind of bread is allowed to be baked. Upon my word, I am at a loss which most to wonder at, the wickedness or the folly of this degenerate people ; for their crimes and inconsistencies start up by legions, and set at defiance all powers of calculation.

The mob, intoxicated with a power which they are incapable of managing, has several times threatened to pillage the houses of the most substantial merchants in the town ; and I have been assured, that, within the last month, near five hundred respectable families, dreading the issue of this irresistible spirit of equality, have privately embarked their effects on board different vessels, determined to

seek, in other countries, that comfort and security which their own no longer affords.

Monf. Borelly, a gentleman of large property, who possesses a magnificent country seat in the neighbourhood of Marfeilles, has, with many others, already absented himself, to avoid a storm which had gathered over his head, and which was just ready to burst.

Such is the melancholy picture of affairs in this part of France! In many other provincial towns, the same spirit of independency has manifested itself; and if it have generally subsided, it has been rather owing to casual circumstances, than to any interference of the magistrates, who feel their incapacity to exert an authority, with which they are indeed

invested, but which is not sufficiently respected to insure obedience.

Whilst disorders of such a nature are suffered to rage with impunity, the inability to repress them is clearly demonstrated; nor, in fact, can we expect to see good order and unanimity restored, till the bitter consequences of the present constitution have brought back the body of the people to reason. The cornerstone, which supported the edifice of allegiance, has been removed; the superstructure has been consequently overturned; natural liberty has been tasted, and relished; and although many begin now to view it with disgust, the majority is not yet convinced, that it is incompatible with the fundamental principles of a social union. This truth is, however,

gradually gaining ground, and the number of those is not inconsiderable, who prefer the gentle tyranny of the late government to the wild licentiousness of the present.

Under the old constitution, notwithstanding the abuses which prevailed, the kingdom flourished, and the people was comparatively happy. Under the heterogeneous mass of absurdities which the national assembly has been madly attempting to organize, and to reduce to an uniform system, the arts have fled; commerce has dwindled; the manufactures are at a stand; the opulent have withdrawn themselves; the poor are without employ; the laws without energy; the resources of the state exhausted; its exigencies, beyond all precedent, augmented; public credit destroyed; a

paper * in circulation, which is received with distrust, and which has fallen so considerably from its original ideal value, that it no longer answers the purposes for which it was issued; the necessaries of life at a very enhanced price; whilst the difficulties of procuring subsistence are multiplied: to sum up all in a few words, happiness and plenty have been supplanted by misery and want.

When such numerous and dreadful evils exist, especially in a populous and extensive kingdom, blessed moreover with almost every advantage which the liberal hand of Nature can bestow, we may

* Assignats were at about 50 per cent. discount. We fortunately had specie with us; and as no alteration had yet taken place in the price of horses, we travelled through France at about half the expence we should have incurred, had the assignats been at par.

surely, without presumption, venture to pronounce, either that the laws are radically bad, or that the administration of them is scandalously perverted. In this devoted country, both these causes have combined; for even those few regulations which have a beneficial tendency, are neither generally nor scrupulously enforced; but every public measure is distinguished by the inefficacy of its application, or the injustice of its execution.

My opinion of French affairs has been uniform; and what, a few months ago, was, in some measure, grounded on supposition, is now confirmed by observation. For, notwithstanding the important discoveries of the art of printing and the properties of the loadstone, which have secured the world from the return of that dark ignorance which once invaded it,

and was stationary for so many centuries; notwithstanding the light of science has dispersed, from the hemisphere of knowledge, those thick clouds which once overspread it; yet we must *still* be guided in our conclusions of what *will* happen, from what *has* happened, and it is *still* probable that similar causes will continue to produce similar effects. When, therefore, I saw a body of legislators, who were about to enact laws, which were intended to operate through an extensive and populous empire, totally discarding from their deliberations all reference to past experience, and applying to theory and metaphysics as the only sources of information, I concluded that they were endeavouring to erect a fabric, which, if ever completed, must very soon moulder to decay. Already the superstructure is

too heavy for the foundations: it begins to totter: and the first blast of wind will probably overthrow it *.

Yours, &c.

* Since this letter was written, revolution has succeeded revolution, with a rapidity which I certainly did not foresee. I was convinced that the government, which then existed, could not stand long; but those scenes of horror and bloodshed which have since polluted France, could never have been imagined by the most speculative mind.

LETTER IX.

Marfeilles, March 12, 1792.

I HAVE been very much surprised, during my residence here, at the abominable filthiness of the streets. In the day time they are quite disgusting, and at night, unless very expert, one really runs the risk of being smothered by what is thrown from the windows. I cannot reconcile these indelicacies with my ideas of refinement and civilisation; and they certainly betray an innate love of dirt, which can be vanquished neither by a sense of propriety nor convenience.

The streets of the new town are wide and regular, and some of the houses,

which are all built of polished stone, are ornamented with porticos and columns. The arsenal and theatre are noble structures, and the principal churches contain a few choice pictures by Puget, an artist of distinguished merit, both as a painter and a sculptor, and a native of this town. The arms, over the entrance of the town-hall, are a production of his chisel, and are carved, in bas-relief, with unrivalled delicacy and taste.

The quays, which are very extensive, are handsomely and substantially built, and afford a scene of perpetual business and bustle. The trade of this city, particularly with the Levant, before the present convulsions of France, was very considerable, and upwards of four thousand vessels, from different quarters, entered the harbour in the course of the year.

All commercial concerns were under the inspection and controul of a chamber of commerce, which was the first institution of the kind, and paved the way to their general establishment in 1701. The principal manufacture, which the inhabitants carry on, is in silk, which they have brought to great perfection, and the oil, which they extract from their olives, is allowed to be the finest in the world. Besides what is exported, it is an article of considerable home consumption, being a great ingredient in their cookery, and a substitute for butter, which is very scarce.

I was last night at the play, and was as tolerably amused, as the nature of the performance would admit. Considering the circumstances of the times, it was extremely well attended; but the stage

in France has experienced a melancholy change. Classfical elegance and purity, the rules of just composition, and the productions of correct taste, have been gradually dismissed, and nothing is now relished but the scurrilous indecencies of ribaldry, or the fallies of licentious wit, which flatter the wild fanaticism of the times, by abusing the constituted authorities of the state, and asserting the inherent majesty of the people. The witty Moliere, the sublime Corneille, the elegant Racine, those great constellations of the French drama, are no longer endured, but are obliged to secede from public notice, and to yield the palm to the puny efforts of modern genius.

I have engaged my passage for Smyrna in a French vessel, which is expected to fail every day, so that my detention here

will probably be very short. I could almost wish that it were longer; for I have been treated with such cordial hospitality and friendship by the family with whom I am staying, that I shall leave them with great regret.

I have now traversed France, nearly from one extremity of the kingdom to the other, and the observations I have communicated to you, you have received, just in the order they arose in my mind, a plan which I intend to abide by in future; for what they lose in point of arrangement, they gain by being more natural.

I have purposely avoided entering into a minute account of palaces, and pictures, and public buildings, which have been already so frequently and so accurately described. On the political

state of the country, I have been more ample, for it is a subject replete with novelty and wonder, and has aroused the attention and surprise of every civilized nation. You may, perhaps, have thought some of my expressions rather too warm; but I spoke as I felt, and as, I am convinced, even after reflection, under similar circumstances, I should again speak and feel. When, however, I lament the revolution, I lament it from the effects which it has produced, and from the mischief which it still portends. Real, substantial, rational liberty, I venerate as fervently as any man, nor can any man more sincerely detest the horrors and the chains of despotism. I consider liberty, both civil and religious, as the unalienable, indefeasible right of every human being, as a right which belongs

to him, as perfectly as the use of the air which he breathes. I consider despotism as an odious and glaring usurpation on the most obvious and valuable privileges of nature, and that every exertion to overturn it, is not only an act both laudable and justifiable, but a most sacred duty: for it is folly and arrogance to attempt to maintain, that millions of human beings were created for the mere subserviency, or pleasure, or animal gratification, of one man, of the same mould, and faculties, and perceptions, whom nothing but the blind chance of birth has placed upon a throne. But whilst I am discoursing about freedom and slavery, I am not to be led astray by an abuse of terms, for the history of mankind informs me, that as atrocious acts of tyranny have, with impunity, been perpetrated under

what has been denominated a free government, as under the most absolute monarchy that ever existed. Had the French acted wisely and temperately, their revolution would have been a glorious era in the annals of the world. It would have been applauded by every man of virtue, sense, and feeling. It would have been one of the most noble achievements that was ever held up to the contemplation of the human mind. It might have been an unfulfilled pattern and example of disinterested patriotism, and have led to the dissolution of slavery over the face of the globe. But the glorious opportunity has been sacrificed to the base and mercenary views of upstart and infidious ruffians; and I ever shall detest a revolution, which has destroyed one government without substituting

another; which has converted order and subordination into an inextricable maze of confusion; which has ruined a flourishing country; and presented a wide-extended field of persecution, desolation, rapine, and death.

I have very little more to add on this part of my tour; but as there have been frequent contests among travellers, concerning the predominance of advantages afforded by England and France, I shall, before I conclude, endeavour to give you my sentiments on this subject, with as much candour and moderation as I can.

I confess that I feel no hesitation in deciding in favour of my own country. As far as concerns my own individual feelings, whether I be swayed too much by prejudice or no, is of little consequence,

since the conviction that a thing is better, makes it so, in reality, to the person who entertains that opinion. As far, however, as I would wish my opinion to operate on the judgment of others, it is incumbent on me, to explain myself in perspicuous terms; to clear it from misconstruction and error; and to bestow on it all the support in my power.

I have known France in its happier days; and notwithstanding the comparative state of melioration, in every respect, which it then enjoyed, my notions were much what they are now. I am not, however, so weak or so illiberal as to give such a decided preference to my own country, as to attempt to maintain, that every thing in England is better than every thing in France (for every country is distinguished by some blessings peculiar

to itself), but merely that the advantages lie on our side.

As far as relates to the government of the two kingdoms, *that* affords so little room for disputation, that I have always entirely excluded it from my calculation. With Englishmen indeed, on that point, there can be but one sentiment.

All then I have to do, setting out with these professions, is to draw a sketch of the manners which characterise each nation, and, after fairly weighing one against the other, to see which scale preponderates.

The French (I mean to speak of them as they were, for I hope their present fit of insanity will not last long) are a polite, affable, easy, thoughtless, ingenious, and frivolous people. They have an exterior which immediately engages the attention,

and generally captivates at first sight. They can talk, and dance, and sing, for ever; but with the sobriety of steady reflection, they are little acquainted. They have brilliancy of wit; but are deficient in solidity of judgment. The feelings of their hearts are warm; but not durable. Their learning is general; but not profound; and most of them have read a great deal; but studied very little: so that their conversation is sprightly and airy, well furnished with materials; but only with those materials, which lie on the surface, and which are consequently acquired with little trouble. On subtle or abstruse points, they seldom converse; and are better calculated for the giddy flutter of a drawing-room, than the learned disquisitions of the closet. They are prodigal of finery, both in furniture

and dress; but the intrinsic worth seldom corresponds with the outward appearance. Their natural taste for dissipation and amusements, has introduced among them an almost endless variety of each; and the great object of their lives seems to be, to enjoy the present, and to banish totally from their thoughts the insipid recollection of the past, or the probable occurrences of the future.

Their society is always cheerful and agreeable; and they certainly have, beyond every other people, discovered the art of trifling time pleasantly away. To strangers they are courteous and hospitable; but their professions must never be understood in their full extent, and must very frequently be considered as mere sounds, without any meaning whatever. Their friendship is easily gained, and as

easily lost. Whilst you are with them, they are kind, attentive, and polite; when you are gone, you are thought of no more; for, such is the versatility of their minds, that the same train of ideas seldom lasts long, and, unless revived by something very striking, does not often recur.

They have a certain irritability about them, which keeps them in constant action; and such is the natural flow of their animal spirits, that, when any enterprise is to be accomplished by impetuous and prompt execution, they will generally succeed. But, when they have once carried their point, from a deficiency of patience and prudence, they are at a loss how to avail themselves of its advantages. Thus, the moment they had overturned their government, they imagined themselves

free, and immediately explored the wildest regions of the most intemperate excess. To destroy a long-established system, a people needs only employ the force they possess; but the passive virtues of patience and forbearance must calm the delirium of revenge, and repress the tumults of faction, before a just code of jurisprudence can be framed, or the permanent possession of liberty secured. In our own country, we are more indebted to the deliberate wisdom and steady firmness of our ancestors after victory, than to the strenuous energy displayed in the moment of contest, for the possession of that constitution which, however people may cavil about particular parts, is, on the whole, calculated to produce the greatest portion of religious, moral, and political freedom, which the various and opposite

passions and prejudices of mankind will admit.

In their address and deportment they are easy, familiar, and graceful; and are never at a loss for conversation, when they first accost you. Initiated early into the mysteries of etiquette, and accustomed from their cradles to company, they always know what rules and ceremonies to observe, and are scarcely ever disturbed by the dreadful and perplexing agitations of bashfulness. The French, in short, are endowed with those talents and propensities which seldom fail to constitute an agreeable companion; and their conversation is always cheerful, generally entertaining, and not unfrequently instructive. But we must retrench very much from the vanity and fickleness of their hearts, and add something considerable to

the constancy and perseverance of their minds, before we can exhibit a portrait which is closely allied to the standard of human perfection.

The character of the English is, perhaps, less brilliant; but it is more respectable. It does not excite so much of our astonishment; but it commands more of our veneration. It does not so immediately amuse the fancy; but it lays a stronger hold of the heart.

An Englishman, when you are introduced to him, receives you politely, without overloading you with compliments and professions. If he likes your society, he tells you so; and when once you have made an impression on his feelings, that impression is lasting, and his friendship is sincere. Both by habit and education, being accustomed to think for himself,

and not to adopt the opinions of others (unless, after reflection and scrutiny, he finds them superiour to his own), he is, on important matters, a long time determining; but when he has once determined, he does not readily change. His mind being thus frequently occupied in the solution of intricate and knotty problems, it is perhaps on this account, that he possesses not that facility of expression and volubility of tongue, for which the French are so remarkable. What, however, he loses in number of words, is abundantly made up in weight; and no language furnishes more modes of forcible expression than our own.

Not naturally much addicted to pleasure or to public amusements, the English have acquired, from their long and close intercourse with their neighbours, an ar-

tificial taste for them, which has progressively increased with the riches and luxury of the country.

In society they are cheerful, without straining their spirits to the highest pitch of elevation; and they go into company, as much for the promotion of friendship as for the purposes of immediate enjoyment. Our manners used to be coarse and abrupt; but they are now, I conceive, quite sufficiently polished, and I could wish that they may not make nearer approaches to what is, improperly, called refinement.

But the brightest ornament of the character of the English, is that generous philanthropy which they extend to every object of distress, that ardent love which they bear their native land, and that frank confidence which they repose in the

honour of their countrymen. Nationality may, in the phlegmatic notions of a rigid or supercilious philosopher, be regarded as an imperfection; but, in the ideas of those who feel and think as nature dictates, it is a noble and generous principle, and the source from which a considerable portion of human felicity flows. It is a sentiment that is sure to generate content. It makes the Greenlander satisfied with his mountains, and the Arab with his deserts, and, by a happy illusion, as sweet perhaps as the reality, transfers to the native frosts and snows of the one, and the parching sands of the other, the blessings of the most favoured regions. I like the man who thinks well of his country. The opinion of superiority, is often the cause of superiority; and the Briton who marches into the field of

battle with a firm conviction that he shall come off victorious, will frequently prove so, from the very force of that opinion.

Such are the distinctions which I have been able to make between the characters of these two rival nations: which is the most entitled to our esteem, I shall leave you to determine.

After having said so much about the men, I cannot, especially as I am writing to you, with any propriety, altogether desert the ladies. Their characters, however, are soon drawn.

The French women, like the men, are thoughtless, lively, and dissipated; bewitching companions; but for wives, my fair countrywomen may challenge the whole female creation. The French women shew at once what they are, and it

does not unfrequently happen, that, at a first interview, in the course of a few hours conversation, you become thoroughly acquainted with their talents, their accomplishments, and even their propensities: but there is a modest and feminine reserve in the demeanour of the English women, which shrinks from the eye of observation, which seems to stand in need of protection, which, as it develops itself, excites a fresh interest, and which, gradually revealing its value, bestows a grateful recompence on the assiduity of cultivation. The French women are all spirit and animation. In their attachments they are fervent, but not steady. The English women are less volatile, their hearts are better formed for constancy, and their tempers.

less subject to caprice. To sum up all in a few words, the French women captivate for a day, the English women for life.

With regard to the real intrinsic comforts of existence, I think they are unknown in every country but our own. We are not ostentatiously splendid; but what we have is good, and the mere glare of external brilliancy would not, in our opinion, render it more valuable. In cleanliness, articles of convenience and utility, we certainly surpass every country on earth. Step into the house of any foreigner, and afterwards into the house of an English gentleman, and this point is immediately determined. The accommodations on our roads for travellers are likewise, beyond all com-

parifon, fuperiour to thofe which are to be met with elfewhere.

I muft now fay adieu, for I am fure you will find my letter quite long enough.

Yours, &c.

LETTER X.

Smyrna, April 7, 1792.

ON Tuesday the 13th of March, I took leave of my friend H—— and of Madame G—— (whose politeness and kindness I shall ever remember with gratitude), and embarked on board the Cazimir, captain J. ——, for Smyrna.

For the three first days, I was extremely ill; the fourth the violence of the sickness began to abate; and after the fifth, I felt no inconvenience from the motion of the ship. You are not, however, on that account to imagine, that my situation was by any means a desirable one; for, from the moment of my

departure from Marfeilles till the moment of my arrival at Smyrna, the time hung so heavily on my hands, that I would willingly have passed in oblivion that short period of my existence.

I was the only passenger on board; and the mind of the captain was so continually wrapped up in the concerns of his vessel, that he scarcely ever condescended to chat with me. I had recourse, by turns, to my books and my pen; but such numerous causes of dissatisfaction were almost perpetually intruding on my thoughts, that the amusement, which I derived from them, was barely negative. Scarcely any author or any reflection could make me forget, that I was in a French vessel; that I was in a state of confinement; and, what I most stood in need of, that there was no person near

me whom I could call my friend, and who, by dividing my feelings, would have taken off the edge of that keen sensibility, which the sudden transition from a charming society to an irksome solitude, had created. When I rose in the morning, I wished for night; when night arrived, the morning was desired; even the hours were counted as they passed, and willingly consigned to annihilation.

On the 15th, we saw the island of Sardinia. On the 16th, during the night, we passed the coast of Barbary, and on the 18th, the island of Malta. I was sorry to have missed seeing this celebrated rock, which has made such an illustrious figure in the history of Europe. It is well inhabited, and every citizen is a soldier, at perpetual war with the Turks and the piratical states of Barbary. The

strength of its fortifications secures it from the danger of any hostile attack ; but that formidable naval armament which it once commanded, and to which it was chiefly indebted for its superiority, is no longer maintained.

On the 19th, we had a fine, though distant, view of Mount Etna, and on the 23d, in the afternoon, Cape Matapan presented itself. This cape, which is the extreme branch of Mount Taygetus, is the ancient promontory of Tænaros. It is at present inhabited by the Maniots, and other races of savage and inexorable pirates, who consume their lives in the pitiless and atrocious pursuits of rapine and slaughter. They lurk, day after day, concealed in their creeks, and watching with keen, but patient, avidity for their prey. A furious gale of wind, and a

tempestuous sea, are the first object of their wishes, and the firmest supporter of their hopes. They then redouble their vigilance, and the moment they espy a vessel that is vainly wrestling with the storm, they fall out in their boats, which are always fast sailers and well armed, and secure their prize. The cargo is distributed among them, and the wretched crew is irrevocably condemned to perpetual bondage or instant death.

On the 24th, early in the morning, just as we were entering the Archipelago, one of those piratical vessels * which infest that sea was discovered. She was

* We afterwards heard, that this vessel was one of Lambro's squadron. This fellow was a renegade Russian, who, by his courage and activity, had collected under his command a formidable force. He captured a vast number of merchantmen, and was, for a short time, the terror of the Archipelago.

making towards us with all the sail she could crowd, and by eight o'clock had approached so near, that we could plainly distinguish her guns and men. She still continued to gain on us; and as her strength was much superiour to ours, and she seemed eager and determined in the pursuit of us, we thought it not improbable that an action might take place. This certainly was a moment which required firmness and decision; but our captain was so overcome with fear, that he was totally at a loss what measures to pursue. Never shall I forget the melancholy and disgraceful figure which he made. Instead of encouraging his men to perform their duty, and, if they were to fall, to sell their lives dearly; with a countenance which unveiled the faintness of his heart, he kept walking hastily up and down the

deck, exclaiming at every other step, in a most disconsolate accent, " Ah ! nous sommes tous perdus." I never witnessed an instance of such base and dastardly cowardice, and my feelings were so exasperated, that I almost longed to throw him into the sea. Our situation became every moment more critical; and the sailors, finding that their captain was incapable of directing them any longer, fired, without orders, two of our largest guns, which were so well pointed, that the balls were within a few feet of taking effect. This resolute conduct alarmed the pirates so much, that they instantly hoisted the Russian colours, and, after some hesitation, shifted their sails, and steered for the coast of the Morea.

The object of these wretches is a surprise, or an attack where they suspect,

that scarcely any resistance can be made. A contest on equal terms they uniformly fly, and will seldom encounter even an inferior force, if it be but well prepared to receive them. This, in truth, is generally the case with those who are engaged in a bad cause. They are sometimes led on by desperation to perpetrate the most daring acts, but they seldom possess that steady, determined resolution which is the fruit of a good conscience, and which, by awakening circumspection, frequently ensures success.

It is altogether disgraceful to the maritime powers of Europe, that these robbers should not only be allowed to insult their flags, and to commit, with impunity, the most atrocious depredations, but that they should even be encouraged, by the tributes they receive, to persist in a

course of life, which is equally destructive of justice, morality, and national independence.

When our valiant captain conceived that all danger was passed, he gradually regained his spirits, and, whenever he spoke with a vessel at sea, boasted of his exploits, and recounted how gallantly he had beaten off a piratical enemy of double his force. I was almost tempted to divulge the secret, which would probably have put a period to his loquacious gaffconades. I have frequently observed, that a man, who makes himself the hero of his own stories, and is continually relating the prodigies he has performed, is almost always the most apt to yield to an alarm, and the first to desert his post in the hour of peril. True courage acts when the occasion presents itself, and is

silent and modest when it is past; it leaves to others the office of the panegyrist, and scorns the undignified occupation of self-applause.

On the 26th, we had advanced twenty leagues beyond Cerigo, when the wind, changing to the north, and blowing rather freshly, we were obliged to tack about, and, measuring back the twenty leagues, took shelter behind this once celebrated island. Here we again had a sight of the very piratical vessel which had so much annoyed us the day before: but being now in company with an Imperial ship, we had nothing to apprehend.

This island is the ancient Cythera, so frequently the theme of the poets of antiquity. It was here that Venus is fabled to have first landed, when she rose,

with resplendent majesty, from the foam of the sea; and she was worshipped, by the inhabitants, in a magnificent temple, which was sacred to her memory. But it no longer possesses those attractive charms, which have been so highly celebrated, and which, probably, never existed, but in the glowing imaginations of its inspired bards. Instead of being the abode of plenty, and the residence of the goddess and the pleasures of love, it exhibits nothing but parched heaths and barren rocks, which scarce produce a sufficient supply for its scanty population. At present, it belongs to the Venetians, and is the last remnant of their once splendid dominion in the Levant.

Whilst we lay at anchor, I kept my eyes almost continually fixed on the Morea, the modern appellation of the Pelo-

ponnefus, once the theatre of actions which have ennobled the name and character of man; once the favourite residence of the muses; once the feat of enlightened eloquence, and profound erudition; once the prolific nursery of legislators, philosophers, and heroes. When we contrast its former with its present state; when we compare the soul of a Socrates or a Plato, with the blind and brutal instincts and appetites of its actual possessors; we shrink, with mingled horror and compassion, from the task of investigation, and wish to draw a veil over the infirmities and degeneracy of the human mind.

At the point of Cape Malea, now called Angelo, formerly stood the magnificent temple of Apollo. But the Turks spare nothing. Even the majestic ruins

of the temple of Minerva, which attract so many strangers to the hallowed spot where Athens once flourished, is suffering every day from the vengeance of their destructive hands.

The wind being rather favourable, on the 27th, in the morning, we left Cerigo, and, after being tossed about for three successive days in the Archipelago, took refuge in the port of Milo*.

In ancient times, this island was very flourishing and populous, and, during the Peloponnesian war, distinguished itself by the long and vigorous resistance which it made against the efforts of the Athenians to subdue it. Even so late as the beginning of this century, it was a place of con-

* The ancient Melos. This was the birth-place of the celebrated Diagoras, surnamed the Atheist, who was banished from Athens in the 91st Olympiad, for denying the existence of the Gods.

siderable consequence, and the French merchants, who were then settled in it, carried on an extensive commerce. In those days, the corsairs were accustomed to bring all their prizes to this port to dispose of them, which occasioned a vast influx of strangers from every part of the Archipelago, and kept up the spirit of adventure and speculation. But this scene of prosperity has since completely vanished. The French have abandoned the island; their churches, and the convent of Capuchins which they had founded, are in ruins; and nothing is, at present, exhibited but a picture of misery and desolation.

The two principal towns, which have by degrees dwindled to villages, are said not to contain above a thousand or twelve

hundred inhabitants, and the deplorable appearance of their houses bespeaks their indolence and poverty. One of them, named Castor, stands on the summit of a rugged rock, at the entrance of the harbour, and has a very romantic appearance. The other, which is called Milo, possesses an inland situation. It is considered as the metropolis, and is better built and peopled. It abounds with churches and priests, with a Greek bishop at their head, who draws from the superstition of his flock a decent revenue. All the inhabitants are Greeks, except the judge, who is a Turk, and who is invested with a sufficient degree of power to answer the purposes of tyranny and extortion. They are a slothful, dissipated race, and waste the greatest part of the day in

basking in the fun; and drinking and gaming are vices which are, by no means, unknown to them.

In their trifling commercial transactions with the vessels which visit their port, like other Greeks, they are very much addicted to chicane and low cunning. A particular instance of this nature fell under my own observation. One of them, who purchased some bottles of our sailors, attempted to pay for them in false dollars. When he was detected, he betrayed no signs of confusion; but, pledging his word that it was merely a mistake, he deliberately put his hand into another pocket, and produced a bag of good money.

As soon as we landed, we went in quest of poultry, for we had consumed all we brought from Marseilles; but it was

extremely scarce, and they asked such an extravagant price, that we were discouraged from purchasing any. Although I paid very liberally for my passage, our fare on board was far from being sumptuous. This, however, I little regarded; but what rendered our meals very uncomfortable was, that the captain would never consent to dine in the cabin, but spread a dirty cloth on the deck, with a weight at each corner to prevent the wind, which was frequently very piercing, from blowing it away. At eight o'clock every evening, the crew regularly assembled to prayers, at which time I retired to bed by the glimmering of a lamp, for our valiant commander was afraid to trust me with a candle. I used to grumble at first, but finding that all remonstrance was vain, I bore my misfortunes

with tolerable patience, and reconciled matters as well as I could, by firmly resolving, in future, to avoid, if possible, undertaking a voyage in a French merchantman.

Before we returned on board, one of the papas or priests, whom we found standing at the door of his house, very politely invited us in, and presented us with pipes and coffee. But what I was most delighted with, was the sight of a lovely girl of fifteen, to whom he introduced us. He told us, that she was betrothed to a young man, who had been obliged to make an excursion to one of the neighbouring islands, and who, on his return, which was looked for every day, was to marry her. Nothing could be more interesting than her countenance. It betrayed a mixture of hope and fear,

of inward satisfaction and tender anxiety, feelings which so naturally arise in the breast of a young and ingenuous maiden, on the point of forming the most hazardous and eventful connexion of life.

The soil, which is naturally fertile, and which formerly yielded in abundance olives, figs, and grapes, is now very badly cultivated, and consequently unproductive. In some spots a little cotton is grown, and here and there a field of barley is seen; but the pasturage is scanty, and the cattle small and meagre.

The climate is extremely unhealthy, and the people in general have a sickly appearance. The most prevalent disorders are epidemic fevers and the dropy, supposed to be chiefly occasioned by the pestiferous influence of the air, and the badness of the water, which is strongly

impregnated with sulphur; and such is the ignorance of those who profess medicine, that very little relief is to be expected from the efforts of their skill.

Almost every part of the island furnishes proofs of the vast quantity of mineral substances which are incorporated with the earth; and there are several caverns, entirely incrufted with concretions of vitriol and alum, and where the heat of the atmosphere is so excessive, that it is impossible to remain in them above two or three minutes. Smoke is frequently seen iffuing from the crevices in the foil, which is in a perpetual state of fermentation, and, even on the margin of the fea, in many places, there are fprings of water which are hot enough to

boil an egg*. The alum has always been held in high estimation, and the salt-pits, which are numerous, produce excellent salt. These two articles constitute the principal traffic of the natives.

The Miliots, from the frequent voyages which they undertake to the different islands of the Archipelago, are expert sailors, and are often employed as pilots to the trading vessels which are unacquainted with the navigation of that sea.

The women are very fanciful in their dress, which, notwithstanding, is clumsy and unbecoming. They wear their petticoats extremely short; a fashion, I

* By way of experiment, we put an egg in this water, and let it remain there for several minutes, at the expiration of which, it was hot through, though not sufficiently done to please me.

should not have objected to, did they not, at the same time, encumber their legs with thick folds of linen, which totally destroy all elegance and symmetry of shape. They also paint their cheeks with a powder which is extracted from some marine plant, and, by the expression of their eyes, plainly indicate their love of admiration. But in this respect, you will say, they are by no means singular; for love of admiration is the universal propensity of the sex: and, *perhaps*, it is displayed here in more lively colours, only because the restraints on nature are not so severe, or the artifices and refinements so numerous, as in the polished countries of Europe.

There are several chapels and monasteries dispersed over the island, some of which stand in very agreeable situations.

The high points of land command various views of the neighbouring islands of Polino, Kimoli, and Siphanto. Of these, the two former are barren and badly peopled: but Siphanto, which is the ancient Siphnos, is happy in climate, fertility, and population. The gold and silver mines, which are so frequently mentioned by the ancients, are either unexplored through the ignorance, or concealed by the prudence, of its present possessors.

The harbour, as Nature has formed it, is one of the finest and most capacious in the world. It is nearly circular, and is surrounded by lofty hills. The entrance, which is on the west side, is large enough to admit a vessel of any burden, and, at the distance of about half a mile, is covered by an immense rock, called Antimilo: so that, from whatever quarter

the wind may blow, the shipping within is secure. The anchorage is excellent, and a few yards from the shore, the water is five or six fathoms deep, and so limpid that the bottom may be easily discerned. There is, however, this disadvantage attending the harbour, that vessels cannot possibly get out with a northerly wind, and are, consequently, sometimes liable to very serious detentions.

In this, as in most of the other Greek islands, there is both a land and capitation tax, which is levied by officers, appointed by the Porte, who are very rigorous in the discharge of their duty, and who, also, never neglect to repay themselves handsomely for the trouble of collection.

During our detention at Milo, we went ashore almost every day; but always quitted it without any desire to

return. We received frequent visits from the inhabitants, many of whom came for the purposes of traffic, and others merely to gratify an idle curiosity.

We met one morning with a poor Venetian captain, whose vessel had been wrecked in a gale of wind, as he was endeavouring to enter the harbour. He gave us a melancholy history of his adventures, and said, that he did not know what was to become of him, as he had but a distant prospect of meeting with a conveyance to his own country, and the Greeks had already pillaged him of the greatest part of the merchandize, which he had saved from the ravages of the sea. How humiliating is the reflection, that a correspondence of manners, between this people and the inhabitants of one of the most polished countries of Europe, should

be discovered, in one of the basest acts which can degrade the character of man ! You will immediately perceive, that I advert to the practice of a few savages, who are stationed on the Cornish coast, and who derive a livelihood from the plunder of the shipwrecked mariner. If the stories, which I have frequently listened to with horror and indignation, were not confirmed beyond the possibility of doubt, I could never have imagined that such monsters were of British growth. To take advantage of a man, who is an unequal opponent, is the act of a coward: but to strip, of what little he still possesses, the unfortunate being, who throws himself on your mercy, who implores your assistance, and whose life and fortune might be rescued by a trifling exertion of charity, is a conduct so much at war

with the common feelings of nature, that we are at a loss how to account for the predominance of such barbarous and complicated depravity. Why is the law, in these cases, allowed to sleep? Surely, a proper degree of vigilance and activity might prevent these inhuman depredations, and, in time, redeem the long-lost character of that inhospitable shore. The English are mild and generous, perhaps above every other people; why then should such an odious reproach be suffered to be thrown on them by the execrable and daring atrocities of a few blood-thirsty robbers?

On the 1st of April, we weighed anchor; but were unfortunately driven back the following day. On the 3d, the wind favoured us a second time, and we took our departure at five in the evening.

Early the next morning, we passed between Tino and Nicaria, the modern appellations of Tenos and Icaria. On the former, in ancient times, there was a magnificent temple, consecrated to Neptune. It is still very fruitful, and produces a plentiful harvest of excellent wine and figs. It is also noted for its silk, which is manufactured, by the industry of the inhabitants, into stockings and other articles, and forms a considerable branch of commerce. The women of this island, who are very pretty, are dispersed all over the Levant, in the capacity of servants. They preserve their native dress and customs, and, such is their attachment to their country, that, when they have amassed enough to live at ease, they always return.

Nicaria is mountainous and barren,

and the inhabitants, who are not very numerous, are inconceivably lazy, and miserably poor. The only traffic they carry on is in deal and oak planks, with which their woods furnish them in abundance. Their dialect is allowed to approach nearer to the ancient Greek than that of any other modern people, and the island derives its name from Icarus, the son of Dædalus, who, in his flight from Crete, was drowned near the coast*.

I almost regretted the progress we made, during the night, as I missed the opportunity of seeing Paros, and Naxos, and Delos, along whose shores we sailed. These three islands are celebrated in the history of ancient Greece. The former gave birth to Polygnotus the painter, and to Archilochus the inventor of iambic

* See Ovid, Met. Lib. 8.

verfe. Its marble was fo much efteemed, that it was transported into all parts of Greece, for the conftruction of temples, and palaces, and ftatues : and it was here that, in the laft century, the Arundelian marbles were difcovered, which are preferved at Oxford with fuch religious care, which have extended the light of chronology, and exercifed the talents and learning of a Selden.

Naxos was the birth-place of Bacchus, and the fcene of his amours with the beautiful Ariadne. He was worfhipped by the inhabitants, who erected a magnificent temple to his honour ; and it is ftill diftinguifhed for its fertility, its gaiety, and its wine.

Delos, which is confidered as the central ifland of the Cyclades, and about which the imagination of poets has in-

vented so many fables, is, at present, barren and almost depopulated; but it was the birth-place of Apollo and Diana, and has been celebrated by the muse of Pindar, Callimachus, and Horace. Here it was that the famous Oracle, which, for many ages, was venerated by the superstition of all nations, delivered its mysterious answers. Here it was, that an enlightened people flocked, every five years, from all parts of Greece, to assist at the games which were instituted in honour of the god of verse. Here it was, that the majestic temple of Apollo stood, which was an object of adoration throughout the civilized countries of the globe, on which kings lavished their treasures, and artists their skill.

To those who are fond of the sea, nothing can be more delightful than

failing about the Archipelago, where the scenery is almost perpetually shifting, and where you seldom remain, above a few hours, without being relieved from the tedious and vapid sight of a boundless expanse of water, which, however it may strike at first from its novelty and grandeur, soon loses its attractions, and palls upon the sense.

In the afternoon we had a fine view of Scio, one of the most populous and fertile islands in the Archipelago. For its wine and figs, it has always been celebrated. It also yields, in abundance, honey, oil, and a variety of fruits and gums. Many of the mountains are covered with valuable timber, and the plains and vallies are adorned with verdant meads, and delicious groves of oranges, lemons, mulberries, pomegra-

nates, and myrtles. The cultivation of silk is very much attended to, and is manufactured by the inhabitants into damasks, velvets, brocades, and a variety of other stuffs, which are richly embroidered with gold and silver. But the production, for which it is most highly distinguished, is its mastic, which is the finest in the world. This gum distils itself from the lentisque tree, and is considered by the Turks and Greeks, who are continually chewing it, as an excellent stomachic, and purifier of the breath. On account of the superiour quality of that which is grown on this island, the grand seignor reserves it for the use of himself and the ladies of his harem, and sends, annually, an aga to collect it. It is gathered and cleansed with the greatest care, and, whilst the harvest lasts, a strong

guard is stationed, day and night, round the plantations on which it is cultivated, to secure them from plunder.

The town of Scio is of considerable extent, and is more regularly and substantially built than any other in the Levant, which is attributed to its having been so long in the possession of the Venetians and Genoese, who, when they were driven from the country, left many of their customs and arts behind them. The Sciots are a shrewd, enterprising people, and some of the merchants live in great opulence, and are deeply engaged in trade. They are polished in their manners, and the women, who are remarkable for their beauty, are very thoughtless and volatile in their deportment, and, in their dress, very fantastic *.

* There is a British consul and factory at Scio.

Opposite the town of Scio, on the Asian coast, lies Chesmé, so celebrated for the signal naval victory, which the Russians, in the month of July 1790, gained over the Turks. Under the command of count Orlov, with nine sail of the line and six frigates, they attacked the Turkish fleet, consisting of twenty-five large ships, in the very harbour of Chesmé, to which they had retreated for safety. By the judicious management of the Russian fire-ships, this formidable force was entirely consumed, except a few small vessels, which were captured. Never was victory more complete; and had the Russians followed up their success, and taken advantage of the consternation which prevailed, they might, perhaps, have given a fatal blow to the independence of the Ottoman empire *.

* See a particular and spirited account of this action, *Voy. Pittoresque de la Grèce*, p. 94.

The wind continuing northerly, we were obliged to go within a few miles of Mitylene, before we could double the point of land which forms the gulph of Smyrna.

This island is the ancient Lesbos, near whose shores the Athenians gained their splendid victory over the Lacedæmonian fleet, commanded by Callicratidas*. In those days, it was the seat of learning and the polite arts, and as distinguished for its dissipation as its genius; qualities which are not unfrequently allied. It gave birth to Pittacus, Alcæus, Sappho, Terpander, Theophras-

* This event happened in the second year of the 93d Olympiad, and the twenty-fifth of the Peloponnesian war. Conon, who commanded the Athenians, after being twice defeated, at last terminated the contest by the total overthrow and death of his adversary.—See Xenophon, lib. i. Hist. Græ.

tus, and several other illustrious philosophers and poets; and here it was that Aristotle studied, and Epicurus taught. It was one of the last islands that remained, in the possession of the Christians, after the subjugation of Constantinople by the Turks; and, though the population has very much dwindled, it is still fruitful in wine and figs. The most remarkable circumstance, attending its modern history, is, that one of the villages is entirely peopled by lepers. They are not suffered to have any communication with the other inhabitants, but they intermarry among themselves, and are said to carry on the various concerns of life, with as much cheerfulness and zeal, as if they were free from the ravages of this cruel distemper.

On the 4th, in the morning, we en-

tered the gulph of Smyrna. It is bounded on each side by high mountains, which are clothed with the brightest verdure, and which frequently present a scenery that is truly romantic. We had not advanced far before we came to a village, which is supposed to be the spot where Clazomene once stood, a city frequently mentioned in the history of ancient Greece.

Owing to a dead calm, an obstacle which increased my anxiety to arrive, we did not come in sight of the marine castle till the morning of the 6th. It is situated on the sea shore, and is a large square stone structure, flanked with bastions, and planted with a few large rusty cannon, which, when considered as a place of defence, only serve to render it contemptible. I,

however, viewed it with the most lively satisfaction, as it enabled me to contemplate the speedy conclusion of an irksome voyage, and a happy release from a most unpleasant situation. Every vessel, at its departure from Smyrna, pays, as a kind of tribute to this castle, a dollar and a cartridge of powder, which are perquisites allowed to the officers established there, and constitute nearly the whole of their stipend.

Shortly after, I was gratified with the sight of Smyrna. As we approached it, I had time to observe, and to admire its situation. It is built on the declivity of a hill, on whose summit are the ruins of a spacious castle, which commands every part of the city, and which, if in repair, and properly fortified, might render it al-

most impregnable. On the other side, it is washed by the sea, which forms one of the most capacious and beautiful bays in the world.

I had observed in the gulph, and even within a few miles of the harbour, several armed boats, crowded with men, who, on inquiry, I found were Barbary pirates, hovering about, in quest of prey, and watching for an opportunity to surprise some defenceless vessel. I needed no stronger proof to be convinced of the debility and corruption of the Turkish government.

About five o'clock in the afternoon, I landed, and was immediately conducted to Mr. Perkins's house, where I had the mortification to learn that the family was in the country. My impatience to see

my brother* was, however, too great to brook delay. I therefore immediately set off for Bournabat (a village at which Mr. Perkins has his summer residence), and, in the course of an hour, had the happiness of embracing a brother and a friend.

Yours, &c.

* My brother had been staying at Smyrna, in the house of the above gentleman, for upwards of two years. One of the principal inducements which took me so far from home was, that I might have the pleasure and advantage of returning with him.

LETTER XI.

Smyrna, April 23, 1792.

SEVEN cities dispute the honour of Homer's birth. According to the best founded opinions, Smyrna is alone entitled to the claim. A spot of ground is shewn, on which it is conjectured the school of that divine poet stood, and within whose walls he is supposed to have finished his immortal Iliad. In those days, it might have been insignificant in point of extent and population. Through succeeding ages, the production of perhaps the sublimest genius, that the world ever saw, has been a glorious and enviable distinction.

Smyrna, notwithstanding the various revolutions and disasters which it has experienced, is still a considerable city, being about a mile and a half in length, and nearly of the same breadth. The inhabitants are composed of Turks, Greeks, Jews, Armenians, and Franks, and are computed to amount to about one hundred thousand *.

All the Europeans, who are not subject to the grand seignor, are, indiscriminately, called *Franks*; and, at present, they consist of British, French, Dutch, Neapolitans, Venetians, and Ragusans,

* The population of Smyrna has wonderfully increased within the last sixty years. It is at present, by many, rated as high as one hundred and thirty thousand. As, however, they have no means of ascertaining the exact number, their opinions must, in a great measure, be founded on conjecture. I have, on that account, avoided the extreme of calculation on this head, and am probably nearer the truth.

who have each a consul appointed, by their respective states, to watch over the interests of their trade. These consuls are held in high consideration by the Turks, are allowed janizaries, for the defence of their persons, and have even the power of extending their protection to a certain number of individuals, who belong to the Turkish government.

The admirable situation of Smyrna, standing on a central point between Constantinople, Aleppo, and Salonica, and the various privileges and immunities which are granted to the Franks, have combined to distinguish it for its commercial spirit, and to render it one of the great marts for almost all the productions of the East.

Since my arrival here, part of my leisure time has been employed in making

inquiries concerning the commerce of this extensive empire; and I shall, however irrelevant it may, at first view, appear to female contemplation, take the liberty of communicating the result of them to you. I am sure you will not repent reading it, for commerce in its outline, embraces an extensive and noble field for meditation, and must ever be regarded, as an object of interest and curiosity by every inquisitive mind. It is the grand machine which stimulates the exertions of industry and genius; which excites the spirit of enterprise; and which, by establishing a friendly and lucrative intercourse between independent states, most powerfully conduces to preserve peace, to remove prejudices, to supply mutual wants, to circulate mutual advantages, and to mingle, as it were, into

one mass, nations, and languages, and customs. It is, indeed, in every point of view, an important subject for discussion, and, after what I have premised, I am sure there will be no occasion for further apology.

Considering the local advantages which Turkey possesses, the difference of its climate, the extent of its numerous navigable rivers, the immense circuit of its seas, and the infinite variety of its productions, it seems to have been designed, by Nature, to take the lead amongst the commercial nations of the world. But, unfortunately, the absurd prejudices of its people, and the odious vices of its government, are at perpetual enmity with progressive improvement, and discourage every description of individual exertion. The despotism and su-

perdition of Turkey are injurious to its population, to its culture, but, above all, to its trade. Before a man can be prevailed on to engage in any undertaking, which demands the application of industry and genius, and the expenditure of money and time, he first requires a security for the reward of his labours, and an indemnity for the freedom of his actions; for commerce appears to be that pursuit which thrives least under penalties and restraints. But, in Turkey, where the rich and the poor live in perpetual distrust and hatred of each other; where intestine broils and jealousies are continually fomenting between the governors and the governed; where whole provinces are frequently devastated and ruined by the pride and avarice of the pachas; where there are few conveniences, and

but little safety, for the inland transportation of goods; where bands of ferocious robbers appear in such force, that they can effect their predatory excursions with impunity; where a moral sense of justice acts as no restraint on the conduct of men; and where nothing but strength can insure protection: under all these incumbrances and difficulties, it is, perhaps, more surprising that it should have reached, than that it should not have surpassed, its present extent.

Merchants, from most of the states of Christendom, are established in all the great cities of the Ottoman empire; but the principal part of the foreign trade is engrossed by the English, the French, the Dutch, and the Venetians. As we are chiefly interested in what regards England, I shall confine myself principally to

our connexion with the Levant, alluding, however, now and then, to other countries, as they oppose, or interfere with, our interests.

The French were the first Christian people that formed an alliance with the Turks*; and, in consequence of that priority of intercourse, have cemented a firmer friendship than any other European nation, and secured many privileges and advantages which we have never been able to obtain.

The earliest commercial treaty, between this country and Turkey, took place in the reign of Elizabeth, when the company was first established†. Since that period, except when it has been checked

* See Robertson's Charles 5th, vol. iii. p. 147.

† See Anderson's Origin of Commerce, vol. ii. p. 149.

by the insuperable consequences of war, it has been gradually increasing, and is, at present, a lucrative and extensive branch of traffic*.

The articles exported from England to Turkey, are either of our own manufacture, or are commodities which we receive from our settlements in the East and West Indies, viz. shalloons, fine cloths called mahoots, lead, lead shot, cutlery, pistols, iron in bars, tin, tin plates, indigo, cochineal, loaf sugar, gunpowder, butter, pepper, pimento, muslins,

* On a comparison of the exports and imports from the company's books for the three successive years of 1785, 86, and 87, it appears that the total value of goods from Smyrna alone to this country amounted, on an average, to £.463,349 sterling, and those sent from London to Smyrna to £.423,548. For 1790, 91, and 92, the three years preceding the war, the exports and imports to and from the same place amounted, on an average, the one to £.779,610, the other to £.848,280 sterling.

coffee, and logwood. The imports consist chiefly of raw materials which are consumed by our own manufactures, and are cotton, goats' and sheeps' wool, yarn, mohair, filk, madder roots, yellow berries, sponges, carpets, black fruit, figs, wax, Angora goats' skins, with the following drugs, viz. aloes, scammony, fenna, opium, gums galbanum, arabic, tragacanth, mastich, and ammoniac. We thus, in every point of view, reap the benefits of this connexion, for the importations employ our industry, and call forth our ingenuity, and the exportations are an aggregate of what that labour and ingenuity produce.

The principal articles, which are furnished by France, are West India produce, cloths, and bullion, which last they export to an immense amount. The

situation of Marseilles, whence all their merchant-vessels sail, which are bound for the Levant, gives them a considerable superiority over us, as the position of its harbour is very convenient, and not above half the distance of any of our ports. The additional advantage of a lazaretto for the reception of merchandize from the East, also, allows their vessels to perform, at all times, a direct voyage, without subjecting their country to the danger of infection: for the regulations, which are excellent, are rigidly enforced. The goods, however, when they are once deposited, and arranged, in the magazines, although they are not allowed to be touched, may be inspected at a small distance, so that bargains may be contracted for them whilst they are under quarantine, and the merchant sustains scarcely

any inconvenience from adventitious charges or delay.

In the article of seraglio cloths, which the French export to Turkey, to a very considerable amount, we have been but faint competitors; and although the ingenuity of our manufacturers may, at some future period, be able to rival the quality, yet I fear the difference in the price will always prove an obvious hindrance to their introduction at the different marts in the Levant. Our shalloons, however, are held in high repute, and have materially lessened the sale of the French cloths; and, in the articles of cutlery and tin, we are without a rival.

From the above sketch it is manifest, that if this branch of our trade were to receive proper encouragement, it would become a considerable source of growing

industry and revenue to the country. There is, however, one grand impediment which cramps its energy, and which operates as an insurmountable barrier against the fulness of success. This is the want of a lazaretto, with which almost every other state, commercially connected with Turkey, is provided. From this deficiency our trade is sometimes subjected to burdens and inconveniences which are so seriously felt, that they almost amount to a prohibition, and the country is exposed to the risk of catching a most infectious and loathsome disease *.

* To guard against the contagion of this dreadful scourge, our government has thought fit to order that no vessel shall be suffered to load directly for England, until forty days subsequent to the last accident of the plague. If an accident happen whilst she is loading, all communication with the shore must, from that moment, cease for the above space of time,

The duties imposed on the different commodities which arrive at Smyrna

when she may continue to take in her cargo. But if a vessel, destined for England, receive any part of her cargo, or if any person belonging to her have the least intercourse with those on shore, whilst the plague shews itself in the slightest degree, our consul is bound to issue a foul bill of health, constraining her to make a circuitous voyage, and to perform six weeks quarantine at Malta, Messina, Venice, or Leghorn, which, besides the enormous expence that is inevitably incurred by the landing and reshipping of the goods, and various other contingencies, occasions a detention of from six to seven months. The hardships and inconveniencies of these regulations are sufficiently palpable, nor do they at all conduce to the promotion of their principal object, a security against the plague.

The sole advantage of them is felt by the Dutch, who, by a very simple operation, forestal our markets, and expose us to this most melancholy of all afflictions. Whilst our merchant-ships are performing quarantine in distant and foreign ports, the Dutch, who are by no means so scrupulous, suffer their own vessels to proceed directly to Holland, where they are subjected to a partial, slovenly quarantine, which is complied with by shipping a few bales of goods on board lighters which lie along side them, for the space of ten days or a fortnight. Sometimes, even this slight inconvenience is evaded, and,

from foreign parts, are not under any general regulation (some nations being

immediately on the arrival of a trading vessel from Turkey, the merchandize is removed into ships dispatched from England purposely for their reception, and, by this manœuvre, escapes quarantine altogether. They are then expedited to some English port, where they arrive several months before those belonging to our regular trade, and of course reap all the benefit which arises from an early supply of our markets.

It is a notorious fact, that about ten thousand bales of cotton, principally from Holland, are imported into England in this evasive manner, and not above seven thousand in the regular trading British vessels. Many other articles, which are consumed by our manufactures, are received nearly in the same proportion. Now, a lazaretto would at once suppress this injurious traffic, a greater encouragement would be given to our shipping, and those profits, which at present accrue to the Dutch, would be shared by our own merchants and manufacturers, who are certainly entitled to every indulgence and preference.

It is an object which might also be very easily accomplished without any expence to government, as the increased prosperity of the trade would well bear a small duty on cottons and other articles of importation, which would be sufficient to defray the charges of the establishment.

much more favoured than others), nor are the custom-house laws, in any respect,

In consequence of a memorial from the Turkey company, presented to the board of trade in the year 1792, the measure was so far acceded to, that orders were given for the purchase of a piece of ground, near Standgate Creek, on the Kentish coast, for the erection of a lazaretto; but when the present war commenced, so many objects of greater moment pressed on the attention of ministers, that the plan was abandoned. If, however, this branch of the commercial interests of the country is attended to, it will be speedily renewed. It is, moreover, a consideration which, at this moment, presents itself with peculiar energy and weight. Both the French and the Dutch, in consequence of foreign war and internal distractions, have been completely degraded from their rank in the scale of commercial nations. Their trade, in every quarter of the globe, has been nearly annihilated, and we are, at present, as far as commerce is concerned, not only without a rival, but almost without a competitor. It will depend on our own skill and management, on the return of peace, what portion of the trade of the world we reserve to ourselves, and we ought certainly to be watchful to secure it, before it has time to revert to its old and natural channels. This, in fact, is the only method or chance we have of indemnifying ourselves, in any important degree, for the sufferings to which a bitter and implacable enemy has so long exposed us.

very strict. When smuggled goods are seized, they are not confiscated, but are only liable to pay double the amount of the duties, or some such moderate fine, a method of proceeding which would not, at all, answer with us.

All commercial concerns, between the Franks and the Turks, are conducted through the medium of the Jews and Armenians, who act as brokers, and buy and sell every article of merchandize.

These two nations are also deeply engaged in business on their own account, and have connexions with all the great cities in the East. With the character of the Jews every body is sufficiently acquainted. That of the Armenians is nearly an exact counterpart. They are sober, honest, industrious, polite, and hospitable. They have scarcely any ambition,

and never aspire at distinction in the luminous career of politics or arms; but content themselves with the humble and peaceful occupations of trade, which they pursue with indefatigable zeal. They are very devout Christians, and scrupulously observe their lents, which last about seven months in the year, during which time they abstain from flesh, and live, almost entirely, on herbs and roots. Their patriarch, who is appointed by the grand seignor, resides at Ekmiasin, about three leagues from Erivan, where he holds his court, and derives a decent revenue from a small tax which is levied on every male person, within his spiritual jurisdiction, who has passed his fifteenth year.

There being no carts, all kinds of goods are transported from one part of the city to another, on men's shoulders.

The porters are consequently very numerous, and, although their profession is considered as degrading, it is so lucrative, that there is always a greater number of candidates than the public service requires. They are appointed by the government; and, to accommodate matters among them, a certain proportion is every year obliged to go out, by rotation, to make room for others. These men, from their continual habits of exertion, are endowed with astonishing muscular strength. The burden they carry is placed on a wooden frame, which is fastened across their shoulders, and hangs a considerable way down their backs; so that they walk with their bodies curved, and their hands resting on their knees, a position which, to our London porters, would appear to be a very fatiguing one. Most of them can,

not only support, but carry, for some distance, a bale of carpets, which generally weighs between six and seven hundred pounds.

When a man fails in trade, in Turkey, he is not cited to appear before any tribunal to have his affairs investigated and settled, nor is any certificate from his creditors requisite, to liberate him from their future claims. If he be an honest man, all he has to do, is to surrender his effects, and a division of them is made among his creditors, according to the amount of their respective debts ; which ceremony being gone through, he is no longer liable for what remains unliquidated. This method of proceeding gives, however, a great encouragement to those deceptions which the operation even of our severer laws cannot altogether pre-

vent; and it does not unfrequently happen, that a rascal pretends he can no longer carry on his business, whilst his circumstances are still flourishing. But concealing the greatest part of his effects, or confiding them to the care of a friend, a fictitious dividend is contrived, and, in the course of a few months, he resumes his property.

The streets of Smyrna are narrow, dirty, inconvenient, and badly paved. The architecture of the houses is slovenly and uncouth, and the principal material of which they are built is wood; so that the effects of fire are generally dreadful. But the Turks are such confirmed enemies to all improvements, that no persuasion can remove their prejudices, or surmount their ignorance. In the year 1778, when almost the whole city was

reduced to ashes, by a violent conflagration, the Franks, who were settled there, offered to rebuild it, on a handsome, convenient, and extensive plan, which was drawn out, and submitted to the Turks for their inspection and approbation. They took some little time to consider on the merits of the proposal; but, as they could not conceive how the alteration would promote their interest, they at length resolved to reject it.

Some of the houses, however, belonging to the Franks, who all reside in a street which runs along the harbour, are regularly and substantially built *, and

* The Frank quarter of the town is no longer in this state. Since my departure it has been reduced almost entirely to ashes. Of this tragical event I have received, from a friend who was an eye-witness of the scene, the following particulars.

On the 10th of March 1797, a number of people, of all nations, assembled at the English hospital, to

the bazar * is extensive, and well supplied. The harbour is capacious and

see the performance of some rope-dancers who had lately arrived. Several of the consuls were among the spectators, and, as is usual, their janizaries were posted at the entrance. During the performance, some Zantiots, who were known to be dissolute, ill-disposed people, approached the door, and insolently demanded admission. On being refused, they attempted to enter by force, which was resisted by the janizaries, one of whom, at last, in order to intimidate them, imprudently fired a pistol in the air. This was the signal of hostilities, and the Zantiots, retiring, shortly returned, in greater force, and well armed. A serious scuffle commenced, several pistols were discharged by each party, and the business concluded, for that evening, with the death of a janizary. The janizary, who was killed, belonged to a corps eminently distinguished for their lofty spirit and insubordinate manners, and his comrades, the following morning, went to the *cadi*, and formally demanded that the assassin should, without delay, be delivered into their hands. This demand was immediately commu-

* In Turkey the shops are not dispersed through the different streets of a town, as with us; but are collected together in places which are called bazars, or *bezestines*.

secure, and exhibits a scene of perpetual bustle and business. It is often crowded

communicated to the consuls, who, on their part, complained of the outrage and danger to which they had been exposed. The Venetian consul asserted it was a Russian subject, and the Russian consul, that it was a Venetian subject, who had committed the murder, and this altercation terminated, by their both declaring, that, to whichever nation he belonged, he could not now be given up, as he had effected his escape. This peaceable intercourse, between the parties, was but of short duration. The janizaries at length became irritable and impatient, and, collecting in a strong body, insisted, with menaces, on the immediate surrender of the guilty person. The consuls, still undetermined how to act, requested time to deliberate, not imagining the shocking catastrophe which was about to follow. Shortly after the inhabitants, seeing that matters were likely to come to extremities, began to withdraw to their houses, and shut up their shops. All, however, might still have passed without any further tragical event, had not the Slavonians, on hearing that the Turks were assembled in arms, in a numerous body, in Frank-street, left their vessels, and come ashore. The moment they landed, they repaired to the spot, bent on mischief and bloodshed. The hostile parties no sooner met, than a discharge of fire-arms took place. Which was the aggressor is uncertain; but two Turks were killed at the onset, which so en-

with merchants from different parts of the globe, and the European powers in

raged their countrymen, that they set fire to an apothecary's shop, about the middle of the street. The moment of reconciliation was now lost, and resentment and consternation increasing and spreading on every side, a scene of unspeakable horror and confusion ensued. There was not time to save merchandize, or furniture, or apparel; all they could hope to preserve was their lives, and which was effected only by a speedy and clandestine retreat. Almost every house was deserted, and the people, with their wives and children, in a state of the most dreadful distraction and alarm, fled towards the quays, that they might reach the shipping in the harbour, which they considered as a place of safety. In this project, they were assisted by the diligence and humanity of Capt. Stevenson, of the Withywood, who dispatched boats for their reception, and generously provided them with every thing they stood in need of, whilst they were under his protection. They remained on board twenty-four hours, in a state of the most anxious suspense, for they had the mortification to behold their houses in flames, whilst their ears were assailed, at intervals, with the reports of their fire-proof magazines, many of which, from the intensity of the heat, blew up, and others were broken open, and plundered by the Turks and Slavonians. On their return, the marks of pillage, and devastation, and blood, were every where visible. Almost

amity with the Turks, particularly the English and French, have generally some frigates riding at anchor. The anchorage is good, and the water so deep, that vessels can approach within a few yards of the wharf.

The internal government of the city is managed by a fardar who commands the janizaries, and a cadî who administers justice. But the police is very badly arranged, and riots of the most serious na-

every house in Frank-street was reduced to ashes, and the Armenian quarter of the city suffered nearly the same fate. About twelve hundred Greeks, besides Turks, perished in this affray, and the loss of property sustained, is estimated at seven millions of dollars, which, at the exchange of two shillings, amount to the enormous sum of seven hundred thousand pounds sterling.

The French, through the medium of their ambassador, applied to the Porte for an indemnification, and have, in some measure, obtained it. We are also applying; but have not very sanguine hopes of success.

ture frequently occur. Justice is polluted at its very source, the magistracy is entirely under the influence of the opulent, and, if you can afford to bribe, you may commit any crime with impunity. There are a great many Sclavonians resident in this city, who are a savage and lawless race, and ever disposed to proceed to acts of the most daring and atrocious violence.

Notwithstanding the high antiquity * of Smyrna, it can boast of no monuments of former times, sufficiently respectable to reward the labours, or stimulate the researches, of curiosity. Scarcely any vestiges of those magnificent temples,

* Smyrna is one of the most ancient cities in the world, and was also one of the seven churches of Asia, spoken of in the Apocalypse. The other six were, Ephesus, Pergamus, Thyatira, Sardis, Laodicea, and Philadelphia.

amphitheatres, and porticos, which are so frequently the theme of the ancient writers, are now discernible. The castle is only remarkable for its extent, and its situation; and although there be no certain tradition of the exact time of its elevation, the style of its architecture affords a sufficient proof that it is the production of a barbarous age*. Near it, there were formerly some fine ruins of a theatre, which was built of beautiful marble; but which the Turks have long since completely demolished, and employed the stone in the erection of a bazar and a caravansary. Some trifling remains of a circus, and the skeleton of a church, are

* Tournefort in his *Travels*, vol. iii. p. 380, speaking of this castle, says, it was built by John Ducas.—Chandler in his *Travels into Asia Minor*, p. 61, says, that it was re-edified by John Angelus Comnenus.

still apparent. Many of the Greeks preserve the memory of St. Polycarp, the first bishop of Smyrna, and continue to venerate the spot where his ashes are said to repose: and on the road to Sedequi (a village a few miles from the city) an aqueduct is to be seen, which is evidently some remnant of Roman taste and solidity.

The once celebrated river Meles, on whose banks Homer has often reclined, and where statues and temples were once raised to his honour, is now a contemptible brook. In the winter time, it is not much broader than a ditch, and in the summer, it is perfectly dry. On the margin of the Meles, stands a stone pillar, sacred to the genius of the river. The occasion of its erection was this. The country being afflicted with a pestilence, which

made unusual ravages, the inhabitants vowed to raise a monument to the honour of the tutelar divinity of the river, if he would kindly listen to their prayers, and extricate them from the calamities under which they groaned. His godship was propitious, and the vow was fulfilled. At no great distance from this spot, there is a piece of running water, which is allowed to retain the classical appellation of Diana's bath. They have, indeed, in this country a tradition of the fabulous story of Actæon, and they believe it was in this stream, that the amorous youth surprised the chaste goddess and her nymphs. They have retained the errors and superstition of antiquity; but their science and skill in philosophy, in government, and in arts, are, alas! no more.

An amazing number of camels are

continually browsing on the hills near Smyrna. These animals are the principal beasts of burden in most eastern countries, being much better calculated for the purpose than their horses, which, although full of spirit, are diminutive, and incapable of much fatigue. The camels are swift, strong, and patient of labour. They are also very tractable, and are taught to lie down to receive their burden. It is placed on their backs with great caution, on account of the tenderness of their bunch, which is first enveloped with folds of thick linen, to secure it from bruises. Several hundreds of them frequently travel in the same caravan, and they are tied together in strings of forty or fifty, with a man at their head, mounted on an ass or a mule, who leads them. Their ordinary pace is three miles

an hour, and they halt at stated distances*.

On account of the plague, which had broken out a short time before my arrival, and which was beginning to extend its

* Buffon, with his usual perspicuity, explains the different species of these useful animals. Those with two bunches, which are generally known under the name of dromedary, are peculiar to Turkey. The camel has but one bunch, and is scattered over Arabia, Persia, and almost every region of the East. These two species, however, engender together, and the produce is considered as the strongest and most valuable animal. According to their strength and size, they can carry a burden of from six to twelve hundred weight, and they can go, for an astonishing length of time, without drink, which, however, is less the effect of habit than of conformation. They are held in such estimation among the Arabians, that they consider them as one of the noblest gifts of heaven, as a sacred animal, without which they could neither travel, nor trade, nor even subsist. Their milk is their ordinary diet, their flesh is nutritive and tender, their hair, which falls every year, is manufactured into a variety of stuffs, and when they are flying from an enemy, they can travel, in one day, over fifty leagues of desert. See Buffon, vol. ii. p. 211, quarto edit.

ravages very fast, my friends advised me not to expose myself, unnecessarily, by walking about the city. Had the Coliseum * reared its stately head in its very centre, however difficult and dangerous might have been the access to it, all solicitations would probably have been urged in vain ; but, as there was nothing curious to examine, there was no ardour to repress, and I readily consented to be governed by their admonitions.

The fatal consequences of this melancholy disorder have been severely felt, at different periods, in different parts of the globe ; but, in this unhappy country, its return is uniformly expected with the spring of the year ; a season which, in other regions, appears to have been de-

* The modern name of the celebrated amphitheatre at Rome, which was built by Vespasian.

signed by Providence, to renew the blessings of life, and to awaken the whole creation to the enjoyments of gaiety and health. Towards the middle of July it generally begins to decline, and, from that time, gradually dies away; but in the fall it commonly revives. Its frequent revivitations have been attributed to various causes, and although much may no doubt be ascribed to the nature of the climate, still I am convinced, that if the habits of thinking, and the mode of living, of the people, were to undergo a reform, it would neither be so rapid in its progress, nor so violent in its attacks. They eat very little animal food, nourishing themselves chiefly with herbs, rank butter, and oil, which debilitate and derange the stomach. In their dress they are uncleanly, and change their linen

very seldom. They also make frequent use of the warm bath, where they remain for a great length of time, which relaxes the nerves, opens the pores of the skin, and keeps the body in a constant state of perspiration. If, therefore, there be any thing of a pernicious quality floating in the air, they will surely imbibe it; whilst it may have no effect on people of a more hardy and robust habit of body. Add to all these reasons the errors of opinion, and our surprise almost completely disappears.

One of the grand tenets of Mahometanism, is predestination. A follower of that absurd and misguided sect, firmly believes, that his destiny has been fixed from the commencement of the world, and that he cannot, by any effort either of prudence or exertion, insure the smallest alteration in the most trifling occurrence

of his life. He regards the past and the future with the same stupid indifference, and is neither solicitous to obtain happiness, nor to avoid destruction; but he rushes into danger with the same apathy with which he smokes his pipe, or drinks his coffee.

One morning, when I was going to pay a visit to our consul, I found a number of people assembled in the court-yard, who begged that I would not advance any nearer, as they were preparing to remove one of the domestics who, the day before, had been seized with the plague. Not wishing to run any unnecessary risk, this intimation was quite sufficient, and I conversed with those in the yard at a respectful distance. Just as I was on the point of taking my leave, a Turk happened to be passing, whose curiosity was

attracted by this unusual concourse. He stopped, and, asking the reason, was no sooner informed, than he went up to the patient, and examined every symptom with the greatest coolness and attention. When he had done, he said, that it was a very favourable case, and that, in all probability, he would recover in a few days. Notwithstanding this prediction, the poor fellow died the following morning. What became of the Turk, I could never learn, but it is most likely, that he met with the same fate.

Thus it appears, that this disorder may be probably contracted by their manner of living, and is certainly extended by their manner of thinking.

It is regarded, by the faculty, as a fever of a most malignant nature. The first symptoms, which are in general mani-

fested, are frequent retchings, attended with a violent head-ach. As the infection spreads, fever, pains at the heart, difficulty of respiration, anxiety of mind, and total debility, are usual concomitants. Shortly after, livid blotches and tumours break out in different parts of the body, particularly under the arms, in the glands of the neck, and on the thighs; and in the course of forty-eight hours, or three days, the patient is generally carried off by a coagulation of the blood, occasioned by its corrupted state *. If he escape beyond that period, hopes of his recovery may be entertained.

No infallible remedy, to allay the inveteracy, or to arrest the progress of this cruel scourge, has hitherto been disco-

* The exhalations from dead bodies are not infectious.

vered; and, as if it were inflicted to chastise the unwarrantable folly and confidence of man, applications, which one year have been resorted to with success, have totally failed the next. This spring, at the recommendation of Mr. Baldwin, a gentleman who was formerly the British consul at Alexandria, several patients have derived great benefit and relief, from being steeped in oil, or rubbed with it, at short intervals.

But what principally induces me to believe, that the ravages of this malady are rather to be imputed to the habits and opinions of the people, than to the effects of the climate, is a review of this country in ancient times.

The famous plague of Athens, which broke out in the second year of the Peloponnesian war, was, in many respects,

exactly similar in its nature and its consequences; but was then regarded as so remarkable a disease, that every stage and symptom are depicted by Thucydides* with the most minute accuracy. We are not to suppose, that the climate has, since those days, undergone any material alteration; for, at the same distance from the equator, the operations of the sun, on a cultivated country, must, in all ages, be nearly alike. But when an epidemic sickness, in the highest degree contagious, has once been engrafted, and the people, instead of striving to counteract and eradicate, adopt every method which can encourage, strengthen, and mature it, we are not to be astonished if its consequences be violent. The Turks are so dead to reflection, and so totally regardless

* See Thucydides, lib. ii.

of the warnings of experience, that they even make no scruple of wearing the apparel which the deceased had on, at the time of his death.

Owing to the precautions which the Franks take against this disorder, they are rarely affected by it, which is an additional proof, that, with proper care and attention, what depends on the climate may be escaped. From the moment it evidences itself, they are very particular, respecting whom they admit into their houses, and are at great pains to avoid touching even the clothes of a stranger in the streets: for you are more liable to catch it from contact than from respiration. When its consequences begin to be more severely felt, they shut themselves up in their houses, all communication between different families gradually ceases,

and, as long as it continues to rage, no person is suffered to enter, or to quit, their premises. Whilst this imprisonment lasts, a man calls every morning to know what provisions the family requires, which he purchases at the market, and, on his return, lets them fall into a pail of water, placed within the outer gate, for the purpose of receiving them, where they remain soaking a sufficient time to purify them from all possible infection. Every paper which is taken in, is first carefully fumigated, and even money is washed in vinegar, before it is handled.

The Christian subjects of the empire have hospitals, established in the large towns, for the reception of patients; and those who attend them have generally had what, on account of its extreme virulence, is termed the *mother plague*. The

few who recover, after having been afflicted with this excess of the disease, are seldom liable to it a second time. There are, however, now and then, instances to the contrary, which is a sufficient answer to the speculation of those who conceive, that much benefit might result from the practice of inoculation. Not many years back two Russian doctors were sent, by the empress, to Smyrna, to make their observations on the nature and effects of the plague. They were so confident of their skill, that, when they visited the Greek hospital, in spite of the remonstrances of their friends, they disdained to use any preventative against infection. The consequence was, they both caught the disorder, and died of it in the course of a few days.

Several pleasant villages surround

Smyrna, at the distance of from six to twelve miles, where the Franks have their country seats, and principally reside during the summer months. Those most resorted to are, Sedequi, Bournabat, and Bugia, of which Bournabat is the largest; but Sedequi possesses the most agreeable situation.

Teos, the birth-place of Anacreon, once a flourishing colony, but now a deserted village, known under the barbarous name of Bodrum, lies on the sea-shore, on the south side of a peninsula opposite Smyrna. The magnificent temple of Bacchus, once the theme of an immortal bard, and the object of veneration of an enlightened people, has long since perished.

At Bournabat, which I visit very often, there is an excellent inn, kept by a

Venetian, and a billiard-room belonging to it, which is much frequented by the Franks in the neighbourhood. I generally go to this village half way by water, and, on getting out of the boat, mount an afs, which conducts me to Mr. Perkins's door. These animals are rather inconvenient, and are sometimes difficult to manage, in the first place, from their innate stubbornness, and in the next, from the breadth of the Turkish saddles, and the shortness of the stirrups, which are nearly of the same size and shape as an English fire-shovel. The Turks never wear spurs, but, when they want to go faster, goad the beast that carries them with one of the angles of these mishapen instruments.

To those who are fond of the water, nothing can be pleasanter than sailing

about the bay, which is furrounded by the most delightful scenery. The boats, which ply for hire, are kept very clean, and some of them are even handsomely decorated. They are shallow, of a long narrow shape, and carry a great deal of sail, so that they cut through the water with rapidity, and require much dexterity in their management. The boatmen are, in general, muscular men, and smoke their pipes all the time they are rowing; but they are by no means so chatty, as the watermen belonging to the Thames. Some of them are gaily clothed in party-coloured turbans and embroidered vests.

Provisions at Smyrna are plentiful and cheap, and the Franks keep excellent tables, which are served up after the French method of cooking. The markets are

tolerably well supplied with butcher's meat; and fish, poultry, game, fruit, and vegetables, are in great abundance. The fishery in the bay is so productive, that, after satisfying the wants of the city, a considerable surplus is salted down for exportation. Red mullets and tunny are caught in high perfection, and oysters, in the season, are brought from Constantinople.

The climate is remarkably fine. In the winter, indeed, rain and even snow are not uncommon; but during the spring and summer, the sky is so clear and serene that a cloud is an unusual sight. It has, however, its disadvantages. Storms and earthquakes often occur, and, from the middle of June till the latter end of December, the heat is dreadful, the thermometer, in the day-time, fre-

quently rising as high as one hundred and four. A refreshing sea-breeze, called the inbat, sometimes springs up towards the evening; but when the wind blows from the north, it is almost insupportable, and the slightest motion becomes a toil. This wind, in its passage, crosses vast tracts of sand, which, being easily penetrated by the rays of the sun, are rendered as hot as a furnace, and when it comes, the inhabitants, to keep their houses as cool as possible, are obliged to shut up all their windows; for it is of such a parching, suffocating nature, that I have heard it compared to a current of flame. To avoid the most oppressive part of the day, it is customary to lie down on sofas, after dinner, and pass an hour or two in sleep.

The face of the country is romantic and beautiful, consisting chiefly of high

mountains*, deep vallies, and extensive plains, which form an interesting and agreeable contrast. Nothing can be more animated and gay than its appearance in the spring; but as the summer advances, the vertical rays of the sun burn up the pasturages, and completely destroy all their verdure. The soil is luxuriant, and olives, melons, oranges, figs, and vines †, are cultivated with little trouble; whilst myrtle, eglantine, jessamy, and various aromatic herbs, spring up spontaneously, and perfume the air. It is, however, an observation which generally holds good,

* Some of the mountains are, towards the summit, quite barren, and even destitute of all verdure. In the winter they are frequently covered with snow, which the mountaineers, by digging caverns for it, preserve during the summer months.

† Besides the fruits I have already enumerated, apples, pears, peaches, pomegranates, and various kinds of nuts, are plentiful.

that in climes where Nature has been less bountiful, the invention and ingenuity of the human mind will more than restore the level. In warm countries, the same sun which renders the earth prolific, and calls forth its fruits, so enervates the inhabitants, and paralyzes bodily exertion, that they seldom are endowed with a sufficient degree of activity, to enable them to avail themselves of their natural superiority: whereas, under a more temperate zone, agriculture and botany, engrossing the attention and skill of mankind, generally attain to a high degree of perfection; and thus, the defects of Nature are remedied and supplied by the ingenuity and perseverance of Art.

Notwithstanding the clumsy and inattentive modes of agriculture which are

adopted by the farmers, such is the unaffisted fertility of the soil, that the land yields very good grain, several cargoes of which are annually exported from Smyrna. The olive trees, which are in great abundance, produce an excellent oil; but the Turks are unacquainted with the proper method of extracting and clarifying it, and consume the fruit in its natural state.

The figs are esteemed the finest in the world, both for their flavour and size, and, with the raisins, form a considerable branch of the commerce of the country. A singular regulation, respecting fruit in general, is applied to the English, who are only allowed to import one cargo annually, which is supposed to be for the king's table. This law, however, we easily contrive to evade. During the fig

season, all the ragamuffins in the city are collected in the court-yards, belonging to the different merchants' houses, where they prepare and pack them for exportation, exhibiting a most motley and fantastic scene.

There is such an abundance of game, and so little danger of its ever being exterminated, that it precludes the necessity of laws, to secure the pleasures of the sportsman to the rich. I could wish, that this were the case in England, or at least that that part of our penal code, which relates to game, were revised, and so modified and explained, as to remove those strong and palpable objections, which the bare perusal of it at present creates. Partridges, quails, woodcocks, snipes, wild ducks, teals, thrushes, beccafigs, hares, and rabbits, are astonishingly plentiful.

The hares are remarkable for their size, and the beccafigs afford excellent sport to the gunner. They keep fluttering about a tree bearing a red berry, which they peck at without settling. They are very shy, if they see any body, but are not much alarmed at the report of a gun, generally returning, in the course of a few minutes, to the same spot. The sportsman, therefore, conceals himself behind a bush, where he loads his piece at his leisure, and, when he is tired of the amusement, he quits his retreat, and picks up what he has killed. The beccafig is a delicious little bird, and reckoned, by many, equal in flavour to the ortolan, which is held in such high estimation by the susceptible palates of epicures. Wild boars are also to be met with on the mountains. These the mountaineers hunt,

or ensnare; but, in consequence of the danger attendant on the pursuit, their flesh sells very high. The cattle is small; but the horses are strong, swift-footed, and full of spirit. This I can speak to, for the very first time I mounted one, although he was advanced in years, he ran away with me for several miles. The Turks, to have a better command over them, ride them with a particular kind of bit, which is so constructed, that, the moment they pull the reins, it gags them, and obliges them to stop short. Although they are very fond of their horses, and frequently purchase them at a great expence, they take, by no means, the pains in clothing and dressing them, that we do in England, and, instead of stuffing them four or five times a day with oats, they nourish them principally with the

simple aliment of chopped straw. But few cows are bred near Smyrna, and the milk, which the Franks chiefly use with their coffee and tea, is that of sheep or goats. The flesh of the buffalo, which is coarse and tough, supplies the place of beef, but the mutton is excellent. The sheep are also remarkable for their fat bushy tails, which sometimes weigh upwards of three pounds, and compose a dish highly relished by the Turks.

In the inland country, there are several copper mines, which yield a very pure ore; but these valuable treasures are much neglected, and the exportation of the metal is prohibited. The miners, nevertheless, contrive to smuggle it on board the vessels in the harbour, during the night; and some of it has, at times,

found its way into England, and, on account of its quality and cheapness, created some alarm among the proprietors of our mines in Cornwall.

I lament exceedingly that the plague has obliged me to relinquish the plan of visiting Ephesus, where the remains of that celebrated temple* are to be seen, which was enriched by the contributions of monarchs, which was decorated by the pencil of Apelles and Parrhasius, and the chisel of Praxiteles, and which was so

* This magnificent temple was twice built. The first was the one which was fired by Erostratus, on the night of the birth of Alexander. The second still existed in the times of Strabo and Pliny, and is frequently mentioned by those two authors. It was finally burnt by the Goths in their third naval invasion^a. The present remains of it, I am informed, are very trifling.

^a See Gibbon, vol. i. p. 433.

much the admiration of mankind, that it was reckoned, by the ancients, among the wonders of the world.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XII.

Constantinople, May 4, 1792.

AFTER changing our opinions about a dozen times, respecting the most eligible method of conveyance to Constantinople, we at last resolved to go by land. Fully apprized of the numerous hardships and inconveniences, which must necessarily attend a long journey through a barbarous country, yet, great as they were, we chose rather to encounter them, than to submit to the gross imposition of a Neapolitan captain * (whose vessel was

* This fellow had heard, that we were determined to go to Constantinople by water, and, as we were Englishmen, he thought he might exact from

the only one bound for Constantinople), and to run the risk of being confined several days in a filthy cabin.

Having made every requisite preparation, we left Smyrna on the 25th of April.

Notwithstanding such weighty motives as a plague, whose devastations were increasing daily, and (what I dreaded fully as much) the approaching heat *, hastened my departure, I can assure you it was taken with regret, for I received kindness and hospitality from every person to whom I was introduced, and the family with whom I was staying, heaped upon me

us any sum of money he chose to demand. His avarice, however, lost him the fair price of our passage.

* In addition to the plague and the excessive heats, this part of Turkey is subject to frequent earthquakes. That which happened in the year 1688, overthrew a great part of the city.

every mark of attention and friendship. But to be obliged to quit a place, in which one is just beginning to form agreeable connexions, is a mortification to which travellers must be frequently exposed, and, indeed, is one of the great drawbacks on the pleasures of a desultory life.

The society of Smyrna is on a most friendly footing, and, although composed of individuals from almost every part of Europe, that jealousy of character, which rivalry too generally inspires, is not to be discovered. In commercial transactions, it may perhaps exist; but they have too much good sense to allow it to interrupt or diminish the pleasures of social intercourse. They have frequent entertainments at each other's houses, and there is a place of general resort for

gentlemen, called the Cafino, which is open every evening, where a few hours may be always agreeably passed away. It consists of several rooms, one of which is allotted for cards, and another for politics, which is well provided with newspapers from different parts of the globe. Coffee and lemonade are, from time to time, handed round, and every thing is conducted with the greatest propriety. This establishment is supported by subscription, and strangers, when introduced by any member, are complimented with a free admission. But to return from this digression.

As the mode of travelling in this country, is totally different from that which is adopted in Europe, a concise description of it may not prove unenterprising.

If it were possible to procure carriages, the badness and narrowness of the roads would render them useless. We therefore had no alternative (unless we preferred walking) but to mount worn-out steeds, and perform our journey on horseback. Mr. R——, an English gentleman, and an old schoolfellow, accompanied us, and Mr. Perkins was kind enough to send with us one of his brokers, who, speaking Italian, served as our interpreter. We had also, for our security, a janizary and two other men, who, with two drivers, and three horses for our baggage, formed a very respectable cavalcade. We carried our beds and a case of provisions with us, with knives and forks and various culinary utensils; and, as we had no inclination to take shelter in any of the miserable coffee-

houses on the road, which are nothing but sheds supported by four stakes, we likewise purchased a tent. These precautions may appear to you (who have been accustomed all your life to the admirable conveniences of England) extraordinary ; but in this quarter of the globe, they are absolutely necessary, and by the omission of either, we should have been exposed to the risk of a violent cold, the plague, or famine.

As the same horses were to convey us as far as Maarlitch (horses too, which, from their appearance, had never known the flavour of oats) it was necessary to go a foot's pace the whole way : and, setting off rather late, we did not make much progress the first day.

About six o'clock in the evening, we pitched our tent near a village called

Yakai, where, to our astonishment, we heard there had been no plague. Though an inconsiderable place, its situation, which is beautifully romantic, renders it worthy of notice. It stands on a gentle eminence, and on the right, at the distance of about half a mile, there is an enchanting wood, which is intersected and refreshed by several limpid rivulets, whose placid murmurs did not ill accord with the melodious notes of the nightingale, which, in this captivating retreat, chanted unmolested her evening song. On the banks of one of these rivulets, listening to such sweetly melancholy sounds, I would fain have remained till midnight, for the moon shone with all her splendour, and the evening was beautifully serene; but as we purposed rising early in the morning, that we might the

better endure the fatigues of the next day's journey, we soon returned to our tent, arranged our beds, and, without undressing ourselves, lay down about eight o'clock. We might, however, as well have loitered in the wood, for we were so tormented with fleas, and so frequently disturbed with the neighing of our own horses, and the barking of the village dogs, that, in spite of our preparations, all attempts to sleep were vain.

From prudential motives, we did not admit the janizary, or any of our attendants, except Mecherdith (the broker whom Mr. Perkins had sent with us) within our tent. They, poor fellows! reposed near us, on the outside. They did not, however, neglect themselves; for during our absence in the wood, they kindled a brisk fire, round which they

fat, and, whilst they were smoking their pipes, and drinking their coffee, chatted over the adventures of the day. The fumes of the wood, which discouraged me from enlarging their circle, they paid no regard to, and it was not till towards midnight, that they were tired of conversation, and felt themselves inclined to sleep. They then muffled up their heads, spread a substantial bear-skin under them, and lay down.

We rose about three in the morning, and as soon as we had refreshed ourselves with a dish of coffee, recommenced our journey: a plan which proved very convenient, and which we steadily adhered to in the sequel.

We found the road over Mount Sipy-lus dreadfully bad, and, in many places, so intolerably rugged and steep, that it

was with difficulty our horses kept their feet. This inconvenience was, however, in great measure, compensated by the elegance and romantic wildness of the views, which were continually engaging our attention. At the foot of this mountain, on a beautiful and extensive plain, which is watered by the river Hermus, stands Magnesia, which we passed through about mid-day. After the capture of Constantinople by the count of Flanders, John Ducas, the Greek emperor, transferred hither the seat of his empire, and reigned here upwards of thirty years. It was also once the residence of the grand seignor *, and the seat of his empire; and although it has dwindled from its former

* Amurat II. and several of his successors, resided in this city. It suffered very much when it was pillaged by Tamerlane after the famous battle of Angora.

magnificence and importance, is still a large, populous, and flourishing city. It is furrounded by a wall which is in tolerable repair, and, on an eminence to the south, are the ruins of a castle. This town is remarkable for containing an hospital for lunatics, which, I believe, is the only institution of the kind in the empire. The inhabitants are industrious, and are chiefly supported by the manufacture of cotton yarn, which they carry on to a considerable extent. In ancient history, it is famous for being the spot near which Agesilaus and Tissaphernes, with their numerous armies, contended for the sovereignty of Asia *, and where Antiochus the Great, after an obstinate and bloody battle, was defeated by the

* See Xenophon. de reg. Agisl.

Romans*. It is, indeed, surrounded with classic ground, which has been celebrated by the poet as well as the historian. But it has miserably declined from its ancient prosperity. Sardis, Pergamus, Ephesus, and many other places, once so conspicuous for wealth and population, are now reduced to villages, where science is uncultivated, and civilization unknown.

We stopped, about one o'clock, in a field, to dine, and, when we were ready to remount our horses, one of the drivers, who was an obstreperous fellow, refused to proceed. He said, that he had no idea of loading and unloading two or three times a day, and we were obliged to threaten him with chastisement, before

* See Livy, lib. 37.

we could bring him to reason. This point being settled, we resumed our journey, and rode, for several hours, through a barren uncultivated country. When we were inclined to pitch our tent, we searched in vain for an eligible situation. The sun had already sunk below the horizon; distant objects were fading fast away; and, at length, the animated face of nature was shrouded by the awful gloom of night. We were in a strange and barbarous country, and, from the obscurity which prevailed, uncertain of our road. We, however, pursued the track we were in, till we at last discovered a light, whose rays glimmered faintly through the trees. We felt a sudden exhilaration of spirits glow within us, and, keeping our eyes steadfastly fixed on this friendly beacon, pressed forward, with

all possible diligence, till we found ourselves at the entrance of a village, called Palamont. We here expected to meet with relief, but our hopes were completely disappointed, and we applied for it in vain. Finding the inhabitants thus obstinately resolute in refusing us all assistance, we reluctantly returned to a field, which we had noticed, about an hundred yards from the entrance of this inhospitable place. In many parts, it was an absolute marsh, and thousands of frogs, that were croaking their discordant notes, assailed our ears. The noise which they made was dreadful, and I was wishing for an army of Frenchmen to demolish these execrable musicians. On this comfortless spot, exposed to the dampness of the ground, and moreover to a piercing north wind, we were obliged to wait,

above two hours, for the arrival of our baggage, from which we had imprudently separated.

On the 27th, in the morning, we had a fine view of Kircagatch; but on account of the plague, which was raging there with uncommon violence, we declined passing through it. It is delightfully situated on the declivity of a hill, and covers a great extent of ground. Before it, there is a noble plain, and the surrounding lands are in a high state of cultivation. They furnish, indeed, the principal part of the cotton, which is exported from Smyrna. They also produce a considerable quantity of grain, and the neighbouring pasturages afford nourishment to numerous flocks of sheep. Scarcely any oxen are to be seen; and the buffalo, an animal unknown with us,

and one of the most hideous productions of nature, is trained to the yoke, and supplies their place. Kircagatch but a few years ago was an insignificant village: the rapid increase of its trade has raised it to its present importance.

Cotton has, within the last twenty years, been assiduously cultivated, and is now become an article of such extensive commerce, that it is one of the principal sources of the riches of the country. Besides Kircagatch, it is grown near several places, within a few days journey of Smyrna, viz. Caffaba, Kinich, Byandira, and Subugia. The Subugia is the finest in quality, but it is produced in very small quantities, and the Kircagatch and Caffaba are the two which are chiefly imported by our merchants. The cotton is an annual plant, raised in ploughed

lands from seed, and, when ripe, is cut down like our corn. It is low and slender, like a reed, and, at the extremity, throws out a bud, which, by degrees, swells to the size of a walnut, and exhibits, when it bursts, a most beautiful appearance. The pod contains both the cotton and the seed, which obliges the proprietors, before it is brought to market, to make use of a machine to separate the one from the other, which, according to its size and powers, is worked by the hand or by horses, and is formed on the following construction. It is in the shape of a barrel, with staves of thin iron or wooden bars, placed almost close together, and in the centre there is a large roller, which, as it turns, presses the cotton against the bars, and forces it through the intervals, which are not

sufficiently wide to admit the passage of the feed.

“ In * every town, and almost in
“ every village, in Turkey, an officer,
“ called an aga, is appointed, who, in
“ places of consequence, lives like a petty
“ prince. He levies soldiers, maintains
“ a considerable guard, administers justice
“ in his district, and is even invested
“ with the prerogative of inflicting death.
“ At Kircagatch, there is, at present, a
“ very powerful aga, called Carra Osman
“ Oglau. He is so immensely rich, that
“ he can, if the occasion requires, raise
“ an army of twenty thousand men. He
“ is, at the same time, very popular in
“ the neighbourhood, and even at Smyrna,

* This account is extracted from a letter which I received from my brother, a few months before I left England.

“ where he was formerly governor, and
“ where the people passionately desire to
“ have him again at their head. But in
“ this country the inclinations of the
“ people are never consulted; and the
“ government does not seem disposed to
“ confer that honour on him a second
“ time. He has frequently received or-
“ ders to join the army, and, to entice
“ him from Kircagatch, has been offered
“ the dignity of pacha, which he has
“ prudently declined: for, were he once
“ to put himself in the power of his ene-
“ mies, his head would be immediately
“ taken off, and his effects confiscated; so
“ jealous is the Porte of his authority and
“ influence, and so desirous of getting
“ possession of his wealth. His father,
“ who held the same employment, was
“ entrapped by similar artifices, which has

“ taught a lesson of caution to the son.
“ Thus, he has never obeyed the sum-
“ mons, but has hitherto contrived to
“ evade it, by sacrificing considerable sums
“ of money, and sending a body of troops
“ in his stead. His income arises from
“ the cotton grounds about Kircagatch,
“ of which he is almost the sole proprie-
“ tor; and he maintains such rigid dis-
“ cipline and justice within the limits of
“ his jurisdiction, that a robbery is
“ scarcely ever heard of. When, how-
“ ever, any offence of this nature is com-
“ mitted, he orders the sufferer into his
“ presence, and, on being made acquaint-
“ ed with the loss which he has sustained,
“ repays it him out of his treasury. He
“ then, without loss of time, dispatches
“ his officers after the delinquent, and
“ they are so expert and active, that he

“ seldom escapes. In consequence of these
“ wholesome, severe, and munificent re-
“ gulations, such a reliance is placed on
“ his wisdom and justice, that thousands
“ of dollars are transported from place to
“ place, on the backs of mules, attended
“ only by one man, almost without
“ risk *.”

We had been near thirteen hours on horseback, and were quite exhausted with the tedious length of our day's journey, when the evening set in. But we sought in vain for a comfortable spot to pitch our tent, and kept wandering on, still amused by hope, till we reached the confines of a dreary wood, which we were fearful of penetrating, and which we

* This aga is since dead, and his son has made his peace, for the present, with the Porte, by sending to Constantinople an immense sum of money.

were very glad to leave in the morning, as we had heard that it was infested with robbers.

On the 28th, a little after sun-rise, we met a Turk, who was travelling with his wife and a few attendants. The lady, who was seated in a kind of box, fastened to the back of her horse, was unveiled, which was rather singular, as the women, even of the poorest Turks, are generally obliged to conceal their faces from the intrusive eyes of strangers. They appeared to be very much astonished at seeing us, and the Turk, I thought, betrayed evident marks of dissatisfaction and jealousy at the notice we took of his wife. We were not, however, to be discouraged by the sternness of his countenance from looking at a pretty woman, nor did she express any of the resentment of her

husband at the marked distinction we paid her. The admiration, indeed, to which beauty has a claim, is so universally acknowledged and bestowed, that it rarely creates either misconception or surprise.

After this adventure, we proceeded till we came to a village called Geul-gouck, where, for the first time, we ventured into a Turkish coffee-house, and had the good fortune to find some excellent kimac *, a preparation of cream which is much relished in this country, and a good deal resembles the clotted cream of Devonshire.

Though these places are dignified with the name of coffee-houses, they are,

* Yahout and pilow are also two favourite dishes in Turkey. The first is milk turned with runnet. It is very sour to the taste, but the Turks prefer it without sugar. The second is made of rice, and is a dish which is common in most eastern countries.

in general, nothing more than miserable huts, intended to afford a temporary refuge to the weary traveller. They have a roof composed of twigs and mud; but are open in front, and are so scanty of provisions, that, very frequently, they afford not a mouthful of bread to allay the cravings of an empty stomach. I could not help remarking the low cunning of a Turk, whom curiosity, or probably some less laudable motive, had induced to seat himself near us. Whilst we were eating our kimac, he stretched out his hand over our sugar, and, in returning it, slyly took a large lump, which he slipped into his pocket. He thought he was not observed, and I make no doubt applauded his address.

The houses of the Turkish villages have a wretched appearance, which you

may easily imagine, when I inform you, that the chief materials of which they are built, are mud and twigs. The roofs are flat, and there is never more than a ground floor, which is not always divided into separate apartments. A numerous family is frequently crowded into one small room, which is badly ventilated, and has more the appearance of a dungeon than a dwelling-house. The elegancies of life do not make us happier, many of its conveniencies may be cheerfully dispensed with; but there are comforts which we absolutely require, and which seem to be interwoven with the very existence of rational enjoyment.

The country about Geulgouck is mountainous and barren, and the roads are infamously bad. This, however, in Turkey, is not a matter of surprise, for

there are no public regulations to keep them in repair, and their state is entirely dependent on the surface and nature of the soil. Here and there, indeed, one meets with a few yards of pavement, which have been laid down at the desire of some individual, who, because he has frequented it during his life, has, at his death, bequeathed a sum of money for that specific purpose. But, when his order has been once complied with, his heirs give themselves no further concern about it, and these patches, never being mended, in the course of a few years, they are quite broken up, and, instead of being of service, are of detriment to the roads.

We passed this night in a field, a few hundred paces from Mendahoura, a village which is remarkable for the number

of storks *, that build their nests on the tops of the houses. In other places, I had observed a nest here and there ; but in this, there was scarcely a dwelling without one : so that it absolutely seemed as if they formed a necessary part of the roof. The tameness of these birds is to be principally attributed to the veneration in which they are holden by the Turks †,

* The Turks believe that these birds make an annual pilgrimage to their prophet's tomb at Medina.

† These birds were holden in the same respect by the ancient Greeks and Romans, who attributed to them the moral virtues of temperance, conjugal fidelity, and filial and parental piety. Modern naturalists have, in some measure, confirmed this hypothesis ; and it requires but little observation to be convinced, that the care and tenderness which are shewn by the parents towards their young, during their helpless state, are repaid, by them, with additional affection, whilst they are labouring under the infirmities of age. They regularly migrate in the fall of the year, and are supposed to visit Egypt. Be-

who, in a manner, regard them as their tutelar deities; vainly imagining, that those houses, on which they construct their nests, will be exempted, for the year, from the ravages of the plague and fire. They consequently never allow any of them to be destroyed, but, on the contrary, encourage their propagation with zealous devotion. They are indeed, in general, humane and gentle in the treatment of their domestic animals. Round one

fore they leave a country, they all assemble, for several days together, on some plain in the neighbourhood, as if to consult on the measures necessary for their journey. A northern wind is the signal of their departure, which is taken indifferently by night or day, when they mount the air with surprising velocity, and, in a few seconds, totally disappear. On their return, in the spring, they uniformly repair to their old abodes, giving evident marks of joy on their arrival, and, if their nest has been destroyed, they immediately set about rebuilding it.—See Buffon's interesting account of this bird, vol. xxii. p. 253. 4to. edit.

of the nests, I noticed an assemblage of between twenty and thirty hawks, which were watching a stork very narrowly. I had not time to discover their motive; but, as she was covering her nest, I conjectured that she was hatching her eggs, and that these voracious animals were waiting for an opportunity of carrying off the young ones.

On the morning of the 29th, we passed through a rich and beautiful valley, which terminated in a small wood, where, like Arcadian shepherds, we made an excellent repast, under the shade of one of the largest trees. Although we, who have been bred up in the midst of peopled towns, and accustomed, from our infancy, to the wants and conveniencies of polished society, have many artificial feelings, yet I do not require the vivid

colouring of imagination, or the studied embellishments of poetry, to conceive the charms of pastoral life. What can be more delightful than that state of innocence and independence which once prevailed, before the heart was corroded by too intimate an acquaintance with the vices and refinements of the world, when the shepherd's only thought was how to pass the day contentedly, when he wandered about with his flocks and herds, enjoying the pure gratifications of friendship and love, and securing, through life, that almost certain reward of sobriety and virtue, a sound constitution, and a peaceful mind! Leaving this wood, we had not proceeded far before we met the courier, who generally performs the journey, between Smyrna and Constantinople, in five days. The post, in Turkey, is not,

as with us, under the controul and patronage of the government, but is an establishment agreed on, and regulated by the different foreign or native merchants and traders, residing in the large towns, who consult their own advantage, and, according to the extent of their concerns, contribute their quota of the expence. When a courier is the bearer of letters of importance, and arrives earlier than usual, in addition to his regular stipend, he is generally rewarded with a sum of money, as a compensation for his diligence and exertion. One poor fellow, a few years back, stimulated by the hopes of this reward, made, in the month of July, such an extraordinary effort, that he reached Smyrna in three days and a half. On his arrival, he received a present of forty dollars, and died, a few

hours after, of fatigue. The courier was hardly out of sight, when we fell in with some attendants belonging to a pacha, who was encamped before a village at a small distance off, and was threatening immediate commencement of hostilities, unless its miserable inhabitants consented to supply him, without delay, with a few purses of money *. But they had the spirit, peremptorily to refuse a compliance with such an unjustifiable command, and nobly returned him for answer, that they were resolved to defend their property with their lives. If my good wishes could bring them success, it should most certainly be insured to them; for I cannot help cursing that dastardly avarice which extorts from the needy,

* A purse is 100 sequins. A sequin is five dollars, and a dollar is two shillings sterling.

and persecutes the weak, because they are unprovided with the means of defence, and from a conviction, that strength must, at last, overpower the generous, but fruitless, efforts of inadequate resistance.

This part of the country is extremely well wooded, and affords a retreat to abundance of game, which, from the scantiness of population, is not much molested by the fowler's or gunner's skill.

Before we reached Maarlitch, we traversed a large plain, on which we perceived, at a distance, nine columns. On inquiry, we found that they had been erected at the expence of an individual, and were intended to support an aqueduct, which was to convey water to the city. Unfortunately, he died before the work was completed, and its present decayed state is suffered to exhibit a shame-

ful memorial of the lack of liberality and public spirit. We were, however, desirous of approaching, and examining them more minutely. Thus stimulated by our curiosity, we paid very little attention to our horses, which were dreadfully jaded; but, spurring them over ploughed fields and ditches, at length arrived at the foot of one of them. We calculated that it was about sixty feet high. It was solidly built of flint, tile, and stone; and a winding staircase within, conducted to the top, whence there was an extensive prospect.

About mid-day we alighted at Maarlitch, nearly as much fatigued as our horses, and very well pleased at having accomplished the first division of our journey.

I frequently, whilst on the road, cast

my eyes towards the shores of Troy, and could not help lamenting, that I had not an opportunity of visiting a spot, which has produced so many gods and heroes, where mount Ida still rears its lofty head; where the Simois and Scamander still continue to flow; and where every surrounding object has been described, and celebrated, by the immortal genius of Homer.

I shall write you again to-morrow, and give you an account of the remainder of this journey.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XIII.

Constantinople, May 5, 1792.

MAARLITCH is a considerable city, standing on the banks of the Mikalitzza, which, at the distance of a few miles, falls into the sea of Marmara. This river is the ancient Rhyndacus, so celebrated for the signal victory which Lucullus gained over Mithridates, and which is so elegantly recorded by the pen of Plutarch *. It has also been the scene of many a bloody contest, during the history of the rising empire of the Turks. We found the bazar well supplied with a variety of merchandize; but what fur-

* See Plutarch, Lucul. vit.

prised me most, was the astonishing number of blacksmiths, whose shops form one of the principal streets, and called to my recollection Virgil's description of the residence of Vulcan *.

The inhabitants of this place are very much distressed for water, which they are obliged to fetch from a great distance, there being no springs in the town, and the river, which flows near it, is so muddy that it is unfit for use.

Having previously satisfied ourselves concerning the plague, we ventured into a house, and employed a part of our time in allaying our hunger, and recruiting our strength, with an excellent bowl of kimag.

* The shoe of the Turkish horses is unlike that worn by ours. It is a round broad rim of iron, without any break in it.

According to agreement, we quitted our horses here, and without any regret, for they were quite overcome with their exertions. We, however, had some difficulty in procuring others, and several hours elapsed, before we could come to an arrangement about the price.

I had long been anticipating the pleasure of vaulting on a fresh and vigorous steed; but expectation frequently leads to disappointment, and when I first saw the animal which was allotted to me, I verily concluded, that I should have a considerable portion of the remainder of my journey to perform on foot. It was so supremely ugly, that even the Rosinante of Don Quixote would have gained by the comparison. My beast, moreover, possessed a quality in which the courser of that renowned knight was fortunately

deficient; for at times, particularly in the morning, he was so offensive to the nose, that no body would ride near him. This, I believe, was occasioned by a disorder with which several of our horses were afflicted, and which, I imagine, is peculiar to this country; at least, I never observed it any where else. In many parts of their bodies the blood, in narrow streaks, bursts through the skin, and these wounds used to heal and break out afresh, or in other parts, in the course of twenty-four hours. They disfigured the animal very much, but did not seem to occasion either pain or inconvenience.

Shortly after leaving Maarlitch, a dilapidated castle presented itself, which stands on an eminence, and commands the town, and which, when in repair, must have been respectable on account of

its strength. A little farther on, we observed a solid stone building, which we rode up to, and alighted from our horses to examine. It resembled a large vault, the architecture of which displayed some rude taste: and a wide stone chimney was erected at each end, and carried through the roof; but for what purpose it was designed, I am at a loss to determine.

This day was memorable for the discontinuation of the cold northerly wind, which had persecuted us, without intermission, ever since our departure from Smyrna. Contrasted with the scorching heat of the sun, it had produced dreadful effects on our faces, having blistered them terribly, and swelled our noses to an immoderate size. But we suffered most from it at night; for, in spite of all our

precautions, it penetrated our tent, and made us shiver, for hours, after we were in bed.

The janizary and our other attendants used regularly, every morning, to discharge their fire-arms; and when they were chilled by the keenness of the air, in order to warm themselves, by assisting the circulation of their blood, they would shout for several minutes together. This method of expelling the cold, provoked our laughter at first; but we afterwards practised it, and found it of some service.

We had a very curious fellow of our party, who was son to one of the mule-drivers. He was a young man of eighteen, and notwithstanding his time of life, and the activity and exertion which his situation seemed to require, he was almost perpetually asleep. I never shall forget

the ludicrous figure which he made one morning at breakfast, when his father gave him an egg, which he received between sleeping and waking, and immediately crammed it into his mouth, without taking off the shell. It kept him employed nearly a quarter of an hour, before he could swallow it, which was no sooner accomplished, than he returned to a state of the most inanimate lethargy.

The favourable alteration in the weather enabled us to examine, and to enjoy, the beauties of a lake near whose banks we rode. It was adorned with numberless islands, which were clothed with wood, and enamelled with the loveliest verdure; and the country, for several miles round, exhibited one of the most elegant natural gardens I ever beheld. On the north side, Mount Olympus towered

to the skies, and majestically terminated this enchanting view.

As the road approaches Brusa, it borders on a luxuriant plain, at the nearest extremity of which, there is a large cop-pice, that furnishes a delightful retreat to thousands of nightingales, which, as if to regale the wearied traveller, chant their melodious notes the whole day long.

We went a few miles out of our way to see the baths of Chechirgui. They were built by the Genoese, when this part of the country was in their possession, and are esteemed the most magnificent in the Turkish dominions *. The principal one consists of a spacious hall, with a ceiling

* Magnificent as they are, they vanished into nothingness, compared with those of Caracalla and Diocletian, of which Seneca, whilst he is railing at the vices and luxury of Rome, gives such a glowing description.—See Sen. epist. 86.

formed into three domes, with glass lanterns at top, through which the light is admitted. It is entirely paved with marble, and, in the centre, an elegant marble fountain is erected, which, through several pipes, pours into a large basin its pellucid and refreshing waters. Along the walls, on each side, there is a range of seats covered with mattresses, where we found some smoking, or drinking coffee and sherbet, and others reposing themselves, after bathing. To the right of this hall, are two passages, one of which leads to the hot, and the other to the cold bath. Before we arrived at the hot bath, we passed through several rooms of atmospheres, progressively warmer, which obviate the inconvenience of a too sudden change of air. The pavement is heated by subterraneous flows, but the

temperature of the water, which is very hot, is not artificial. It is conducted through the walls into the baths, by several leaden pipes, and, from the copperas which adheres to the places whence it springs, is supposed to pass through extensive mines of vitriol. The baths and apartments for the women, are on the other side of the hall.

These baths are held in high repute, and their fame attracts invalids from the remotest parts of the empire. The attendants are numerous, and one of them waits on every bather, who has a great many ceremonies to go through. In the course of the operation, every joint of his body is cracked, even the vertebræ of the back, which is performed with wonderful dexterity. They pressed me very much to try the experiment; but I felt no

inclination to be so roughly handled. Those, however, who are accustomed to it, consider it as a great luxury, and always put on their clothes with reluctance. The women are very fond of going to the baths, where they meet their friends, and form new acquaintance; and where they can always pass their time more pleasantly, and with less restraint, than at home. They frequently remain there for several hours, chatting and embroidering, and drinking sherbet and coffee. Ladies of distinction are conveyed thither in the carriages of the country, which are clumsy vehicles, shut up on every side with wooden blinds, that admit a circulation of air without discovering to the inquisitive eyes of passengers the charms of those within*.

* The baths, in the summer time, are kept open

Besides these baths, the only thing which merits attention at Chechirgui, is the principal mosch, which is a stately building.

We found the people of this place very impertinent and curious. The moment we alighted from our horses, a number of them furrounded us, and, without asking our permission, one took a cutlass, another a pistol, a third got hold of a saddle, and did not quit them till they had minutely examined every part.

Whilst we were here, we had an opportunity of putting the delicacy of our janizary to the test. Out of our stock of provisions, we had still remaining an ex-

from four in the morning till eight at night. The usual price is from two to four aspars, or one penny sterling.

cellent piece of beef, which, as we were so near Brusa, we thought we might venture to make a present of to this fellow. But when we offered it to him, to our great surprise, he refused it, adding, that the day before he had seen it on a plate with some ham. Although I knew that the Koran was as severe as the Jewish law, respecting its inhibitions against touching any of the *unclean animals*, I had no notion of meeting, in a janizary, with such an instance of scrupulous pertinacity*. I fancy, however, that he would have been less conscientious, had he not been within hearing of his countrymen, among whom he always assumed

* The Persian Mahometans eat pork, drink wine, and ornament their houses with pictures. The Turks, however, stigmatize them with the name of schismatics.

an air of superiority. When applause or respect can be insured by any trifling self-denial, we seldom hesitate to comply. It is sacrifices of moment, that create repugnance, and weaken the barriers of duty.

About two o'clock we arrived at Brusa, which is one of the largest and most ancient cities of Asia. Formerly it was the capital of the flourishing kingdom of Bithynia, where the great but unfortunate Hannibal terminated his existence, and where the Romans maintained a long and doubtful warfare with the artful Prusias. It has since been the seat of the Ottoman empire*, and the

* Brusa was, for a long time, the capital of the Turks. It was besieged, and reduced, by famine, after a tedious blockade, by Orchan, in the year of

mausoleums of several sultans (among which is that of Orchan) are still to be seen. It stands at the foot of Olympus, a mountain of an immense height, and whose summit is, at all seasons of the year, covered with snow; whilst the lower hills are planted with fir, beech, aspen, yew-elm, plane, and chestnut-trees, and clothed with the brightest verdure. This mountain is said to have derived its name from the celebrated Olympus in Thessaly, which was feigned by the ancients to be the abode of their gods. It so abounds with springs, that no city in Turkey is so well supplied with water, almost every

the Hegira 726 (which was the year 1325 of the Christian era), during the reign of his father Othman I. who was the founder of the Ottoman empire.

It is the birth-place of Asclepiades, the celebrated physician.

house having a fountain, which the Turks reckon among their chief luxuries. These springs swell into the most delightful crystal streams, as they fall into the valley, and abound with trout and other excellent fish; and the surrounding country is in a high state of cultivation, and covered with vineyards, and fruit trees, and luxuriant woods. On the southern side of the city, there is a fertile and extensive plain, planted with mulberry-trees for the nourishment of the silk-worms, which prosper here exceedingly, and produce remarkably fine silk. They are not, however, bred on the trees; but are kept within doors, where their food is brought to them.

Brusa, thus situated, presents a singular, but beautiful and romantic landscape. As we approached it, we saw it in various

points of view, and the scenery, through all its changes, was either elegant or wild, and always interesting. In some parts, many of the houses are built a considerable way up the mountain, whilst others stand more securely in the valley below: in others the minarets add to the splendour, and the plane-trees to the softness of the picture. A wall, which is in a very ruinous state, surrounds the city, within which none but Mussulmans are permitted to dwell; but the suburbs, which are far more extensive, and infinitely better built and paved, are inhabited by Greeks, Jews, and Armenians. Comprising both, the number of inhabitants is computed to amount to one hundred and thirty thousand. They carry on a considerable trade* in silk, which is

* The caravans from Constantinople and Aleppo

exported in the raw state to every part of Europe, and their manufactures in this article, in carpets, in gold, and in velvet brocade, are justly esteemed. Although they have not yet been able to simplify and reduce the exertions of labour with the same success as we, yet the fabric of them is very ingenious, and much taste is displayed in the variety and arrangement of the patterns.

It was in the reign of the emperor Justinian that the silk-worm was first introduced into Europe. The luxury of the Romans had long since rendered the manufacture an indispensable article of dress, and it was transported, annually, in caravans, from China to the coast of Syria, by a tedious, expensive, and cir-

to Isfahan pass through Brusa, whence one for Persia sets out every two months.

cuitous, route. The Persian merchants, who frequented the fairs of Armenia and Nisibis, delivered it into the hands of the Romans, and reaped considerable benefits from the monopoly of this important and valuable branch of commerce. Two Persian monks, who had resided in China for a length of time, and had observed with attention the management of this remarkable insect, conceived the project of conveying some of the eggs to Constantinople, and, receiving encouragement from the emperor, they evaded the jealous vigilance of the Chinese, by concealing them in the hollow of a cane. Under their direction, on their return, the eggs were hatched, the worms fed, and the race propagated. Such was the origin of a production, which is now cultivated with success, not only in the Turkish

empire, but in many parts of Europe, where it forms one of the principal sources of revenue to the state, and employment to the people*.

The moschs are numerous, and several of them have large domes, covered with lead, and are, in every respect, magnificent structures. The seraglio †, which was erected by Mahomet IV, stands on an eminence, and commands a most enchanting prospect. It is an extensive edifice, and is inaccessible on every side, but that which leads to the city. The royal colleges, where students are nourished, and instructed in Arabic learning, free of expence, are well endowed, and

* See Gibbon's elegant and interesting account of this event (vol. vii. p. 98), from which the above is abridged.

† There is another seraglio, called the *old*, which was built by Amurat I.

in high repute. The caravanfaries are both handsome and convenient, and the bazar, which occupies a large space of ground, is furnished with all the productions of the Levant, and with many rich and costly articles from the different countries of Europe. Whilst we were walking through it, we met the pacha on foot, who was attended by several of his guards, and every body made way for him with the greatest obsequiousness, which he returned with looks of fullen pride and contempt. He, the janizary aga, and the cadi, divide the government of the place.

A Jew, who accosted us shortly after our arrival, and who had politely conducted us about the city, towards the evening, took us to a place where pipes and coffee are provided, and which, on

account of its agreeable situation, is very much resorted to, during the summer months. To get there, we were obliged to mount a steep ascent, when we were surpris'd at finding a large plat of ground, thickly planted with trees. A current of water, which derives its source from an overhanging mountain, passes through it, and from being confined between two large planks, flows with great impetuosity. Under the shade of these trees, and on the banks of this current, the Turks repose on their carpets, and with the alternate amusement of a pipe, a cup of coffee, and a nap, contrive to loiter away the day. Of these three indolent occupations, the pipe seems to afford the greatest enjoyment, and the genius of the people has been exerted in the refinement of this luxury. They make use of a pipe

that has a tube, four or five feet long, one end of which is put into a glass globe, half full of water, and is so contrived, that, as the breath is drawn, the smoke rushes through the water, and is consequently received cool into the mouth. When the water begins to lose its freshness, it is changed, which operation is performed several times, before the tobacco is exhausted.

During the whole of our journey, we had been complaining of the great scarcity of provisions, making sometimes fruitless inquiries, even after bread: and notwithstanding the population of Brusa, no flesh was to be procured. On asking the reason of what appeared, on the first view, so very incomprehensible, I was informed, that at this season of the year, between the rising and the setting of the sun,

scarcely any eatable is ever to be obtained, on account of the ramazan, which is the Turkish lent, and which, although a religious, I will venture to add, is a ridiculous institution. It lasts for four weeks, during which time the order of Nature is completely reversed, and the followers of Mahomet, whilst the day continues, are strictly forbidden to take any kind of nourishment. However violent may be the cravings of an empty stomach, till the sun has sunk below the horizon, they must be endured. They are permitted to sleep, *if they can*; but the pipe is a luxury, in which it is unlawful to indulge, and even water is denied them. These severe and absurd injunctions prove fatal to a number of people, especially to those who are advanced in years. They are, however, relaxed in

favour of the sick and travellers, which is a convenient concession for people who are not over conscientious. But if the law be strictly complied with, those, who, from illness or other reasons, have omitted to fast during the regular period, are not suffered to escape, but are bound to keep an exact account of the days of indulgence, and to submit to the penalty as soon as these obstacles are removed.

The ramazan is the ninth month of the Turkish year, and was ordained by Mahomet himself, who declared it was at that period he received the Koran from heaven. The length of their month being entirely regulated by the moon, this fast consequently falls at different seasons. When it happens in the summer, those, who observe it rigidly, suffer dreadfully from thirst, and wait, with the

greatest impatience, for the voice of the muezzins, or criers, who announce, from the minarets, the hour at which it is lawful to take food. Many ascend the highest hills to watch the setting sun, and acclamations of joy attend its departure. As the evening closes in, all kinds of preparations are going forward, to make amends for the lingering weariness of the day, and the night is passed in festive jollity, or drunken riot and debauch. This is a season of licence, and, under the certain shadow of darkness, every kind of intemperance is practised with impunity. The hans in the large towns exhibit a curious scene. They are well lighted up, and are crowded with people, who seem to have met with a determination to enjoy themselves. The saturnine disposition of the Turks

relaxes into cheerfulness, and hilarity circulates with every testimony of freedom and good-will.

The caravansaries, which are to be met with in all the large towns, and on the principal roads of the empire, are spacious buildings, and generally of a quadrangular form. They have a bench, fixed to the wall on every side, raised a few feet from the ground, and about six feet in width, on which the travellers spread their mattresses; and the area, in the middle, is occupied by the camels, horses, and mules. Although the caravansaries in this city are on a very grand scale, we were so fearful of the plague, that we preferred passing the night in a warehouse; but the fleas, with which it swarmed, so tormented us, that we could get no sleep. The people of the country

are not, I fancy, so much exposed to their attacks, for, instead of taking any pains to get rid of them, they seem to give them encouragement, by covering their floors with mats, which afford them a secure and convenient shelter.

Shortly after we had taken up our quarters in the warehouse, a man, whom curiosity had induced to pay us a visit, entered, and, being of an inquisitive disposition, soon began to chat with the familiarity of an old acquaintance. We were desirous of amusing him as much as we possibly could, and, after we had shewn him a variety of things, Mecherdith, recollecting that I had a bottle of phosphorus, begged I would light a match with it, merely to see what degree of surprise it would occasion in the fellow. I accordingly dipped one

into the bottle, and, on pulling it out, when he first perceived the flame, he had such an aspect of astonishment and fear, that I believe he suspected the operation was performed by some magical process. To obtain fire from a place in which he had no conception that the element could be confined, confounded his reason, and puzzled his imagination. Having fixed his eyes upon us for about a minute in silent wonder, he expressed a wish to examine the match, which I presented to him. Eager to unravel the mystery, after viewing it in various positions, he at last applied it to his nose; but was so startled at the effect which the brimstone produced, that he hastily threw it down, appeared tacitly to condemn his thirst after knowledge, and took the first opportunity of leaving the room.

On the 2d of May we proceeded on our journey, and had not travelled many miles, when we were gratified with the sight of one of the most enchanting and finished landscapes, it is possible to behold. It consisted of a plain, planted with chesnut, cherry, and mulberry trees, yet not too extensive for all its beauties to be discerned. The plantations were arranged with unstudied taste, and the spaces between them were filled up with parterres of vines, whose prolific branches were trained round the trees. On three sides the view was terminated by lofty mountains, which were cultivated to their very summits, and in many parts adorned with serpentine hedges, composed of jessamy, eglantine, and honey-suckle, which grew in wild luxuriance, and perfumed the air. The plain was intersected by a meander-

ing rivulet, that gently poured its tribute into the sea, by which the fourth side was bounded. I wish that you, who are a lover of cultivated nature, had been with me to participate my feelings, whilst I was dwelling on this unrivalled picture.

In the course of the day, we passed an arm of the sea, on the borders of which a few workmen were building a ship of war for the grand seignor. How long it had been on the stocks, I cannot pretend to say; but it was not in a very advanced state, and from the slovenly manner in which it was put together, I thought there was some chance of its falling to pieces, before it was finished. Whilst observing it, I could not help reflecting, and with no small degree of pride and satisfaction, on the navy and dock-yards of Great Britain. How they would sur-

prise these ignorant and clumsy mechanics!

We had been ten hours (a tedious length of time) on horseback, when we stopped to dine under the shade of a tree, on the banks of a gurgling brook, exhibiting an exact copy of pastoral life.

After dinner we travelled for four hours, and, desirous of finishing our journey, we made one effort more, and, setting off at ten o'clock at night, reached Yalova by five in the morning, which, although now but an insignificant village, was once celebrated for its splendour and extent, and for being the imperial residence of Diocletian*.

It is scarcely possible to imagine the wretched state of the road which we traversed for the last twelve or fourteen

* See Gibbon, vol. iii. p. 7.

miles. It was very narrow, and little better than a precipice; and, in many parts, so thickly overshadowed with trees, that it resembled all the horrors of enchantment. The poor horses which carried our baggage, had several severe falls, and those we rode, hardly made a step without stumbling. Like *true* Englishmen, we scorned all admonition, and, flattering ourselves each moment that the road would mend, we preferred running the risk of breaking our necks to the trouble of dismounting. Had not, however, the obscurity of the night concealed our danger, we should, perhaps, have been less imprudent. Our conductors, astonished at the dreadful ruggedness of the path, began to suspect that they had missed their way; and whilst they were communicating their doubts to each

other, a man was fortunately discovered, who, by offering his services, relieved them from their dilemma.

We waited but a short time at Yalova, whence we embarked on board a Greek vessel for Constantinople.

After a pleasant sail of eight hours on the sea of Marmara (the ancient Propontis) we came in sight of that renowned capital, which presents one of the most glorious and magnificent scenes in the world, and for a description of which I shall refer you to the elegant Gibbon*.

The sea of Marmara has always been celebrated for its exquisite fish, which is taken in abundance at stated seasons, and the shores, both of Thrace and Bithynia, by which it is encircled, exhibit a luxuriant prospect of vineyards and gardens,

* See Gibbon's Rom. Emp. vol. i.

and woods, and meadows, and corn-fields, which yield a regular and productive harvest.

Poor Mecherdith, who had never been at sea before, was so agitated with fear, and so enervated with illness, that when we first caught the sight of a minaret, for which we had been long eagerly watching, and told him, that we had at last discovered Constantinople, he languidly raised his head, and, without ever looking round, dropped it again, nor could all our persuasion make him move a second time, till he got up to jump on shore.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XIV.

Constantinople, May 9, 1792.

THE inside of Constantinople by no means corresponds with the splendid scene which it presents as you approach it. The streets are narrow and badly paved, and the houses are, in general, of wood, and rudely built. Most of them are two stories high, and have balconies and terraces, where the Turks, in fine weather, smoke their pipes, and drink their coffee. The city is surrounded with a wall, flanked with towers, which is in pretty good repair, but quite unfurnished with artillery. Comprehending the suburbs of Pera and Galata, it is of an

immense extent, and is computed to contain upwards of six hundred thousand souls. Being the capital of a rich and populous empire, like all other great cities, it is the seat of profligacy and dissipation, and pre-eminently distinguished for luxury and vice.

When we reflect on the sudden, various, and total revolutions, which this renowned metropolis has undergone; when we recollect, that it was once the receptacle of an undistinguished colony of Greeks; that it was afterwards created by Constantine the capital of the world, and ordained to rear its lofty head above the majestic walls of Rome; and that, finally, after arduous and repeated struggles, it was destined to yield to the arms of a barbarian conqueror, and to remain, for so many centuries, in the possession of

a race of infidels ; we have a most awful and striking lesson, on the insignificance of human grandeur, the instability of fortune, and the folly of reposing, with too much confidence, on our own strength and resources.

Whilst under the dominion of Constantine and his successors, it had been adorned with some of the choicest productions of art, and, in point of magnificence, even emulated Rome. The wealth, the labour, the genius, of the empire, was employed in the embellishment of the new capital, and what, in consequence of the degeneracy of skill and of taste, these were unable to furnish, was supplied from the scattered remains of a more fortunate and enlightened era. The immortal productions of the Grecian chisel were removed from their ancient

abodes, and transported, at an enormous expence, from the most remote provinces, to this favoured spot. At the time when it was taken, in the fifteenth century, by Mahomet II. many of these noble monuments of human ingenuity and perseverance still existed; but it was the object and the labour of its new master to mutilate and destroy every vestige, which could convey any idea of the advancement of learning and the fine arts. It was not, however, one reign which could accomplish this unworthy, this sacrilegious design, and even to this day, there are some few remains of antiquity to be seen, which are worthy of exciting admiration, and which kindle emotions of pious regret for what has been lost, and can never be restored.

Any monument which, through a

long fucceffion of ages, has been an object of curiofity or veneration, is always viewed, by a perfon of letters, with a mixture of pleafurable fenfations, arifing from a combination of circumftances which memory arranges in his mind. It is either emblematical of popular fuperftition, or it records, or corroborates, or explains, fome historical fact, or it exhibits a fpecimen of that fublime genius which was fo conspicuous a feature in the works of the ancients.

The firft place we were conducted to, was the Hippodrome, where horfe races and other amufements of the fame nature were formerly exhibited. The Turks have, indeed, referved it for fimilar purpofes, and are very dexterous in the management of their horfes, which are furprifingly fleet. Here it is they alfo fre-

quently practise throwing the jirid, which is one of their favourite diversions, and at which they are astonishingly expert. These entertainments bear a near resemblance to the tournaments which were so much in vogue in the age of chivalry. The Turks enter completely into the spirit of them. They put their horses on the full gallop, throw their jirids in the air and catch them, and pursue each other with the most determined eagerness. They wheel about, retreat, and attack, and go through the various evolutions of horsemanship with wonderful rapidity. When they dart at each other, they aim at the back, and the principal skill consists in throwing themselves forward on their horses, and avoiding the meditated blow *. But the Hippodrome

* I have extracted the following note from prince

is stripped of all that magnificence and splendour with which the Greek emperors adorned it, and is now nothing more than

Cantemir's History of the Othman empire. See p. 90. Annotation 41.

“ The jirid is a sort of light missive javelin much used by the Turks. They who are expert in the use of it carry three of these javelins in a case hung from the right side of their horse, with which they hit the mark with an exactness scarce to be matched by the most skilful gunners. Of this I shall give an instance, which, had I not been an eye-witness, I should hardly have believed. In the last year of the former war, before the forces departed from Zenta, some of the emperor's chamberlains exercised this sport before him on a plain near Philippolis. The javelins they used were not pointed, but blunt at the end. One Mehemed Aga, a Circassian, and master of the stables (a place of great dignity with the Turks), was among them. One of the company hit him unawares upon the back with a jirid sent with great force. Mehemed, ashamed, and perhaps enraged with the smart, gave the reins to his horse, of the Egyptian breed, and furiously pursued the flying enemy, who, sensible that if he rid directly on he could not escape his pursuer, turned his horse to the right, when Mehemed with a javelin sent after him, blunt as it was, pierced the jaws of his horse, and threw both horse and rider to the ground. I saw the

a large irregular square, enclosed with irregular buildings. Near its centre there is an obelisk of porphyry, which is in a perfect state, and, although measuring upwards of fifty feet in height, is of one stone. It was transported from Thebes in Egypt, and the four sides of it are covered with hieroglyphics, the mysterious symbols of that once celebrated country. It rests on four brazen balls, supported by a well-proportioned pedestal, on which there are various bas-reliefs, and inscriptions, both in Greek and Latin, mentioning, that it was restored by Theodosius to its present condition.

At a small distance from this obelisk, there is another, which, from its muti-

same man, in ostentation of his strength, strike an ordinary and pointless jirid through the outer gate of a monastery in Moldavia, made of planks three inches thick."

lated appearance, bears the marks of very remote antiquity. It is composed of several pieces of marble, and, from the numerous holes in its surface, it is evident, that it was formerly covered with plates of bronze, or some other metal. It is very lofty, and the inscription on the base speaks of the workmanship of it in terms of high panegyric *.

The famous brazen triple serpent, of which Mahomet II. broke one of the heads †, when he triumphantly entered the city, still continues to attract strangers to the Hippodrome, and to remind them of the foolish arrogance of that haughty despot. Exasperated at the long and vigorous defence that had been made, he

* This pillar, in the time of the Greek emperors, was the farthest goal of the Hippodrome.

† The other two heads have since disappeared.

regarded this inoffensive serpent as a talisman, which had inspired resistance to his arms, and, for such a length of time, rendered his efforts ineffectual. When it was in his power, he accordingly took his impotent revenge. This remarkable pillar is very ancient, and is said to have been brought from Delphi, where it served to support the celebrated tripod of gold, formed out of a part of the immense treasures found in the camp of Mardonius, and which the Greeks, after the battle of Plataea, consecrated to Apollo*.

The moschs, in general, are noble structures, and, although incorrect in point of architecture, like the Gothic cathedrals with us, they are striking on account of their solidity and dimensions.

* See Herodotus, lib. ix. c. 80..

They stand in spacious courts, which are ornamented with trees and fountains, and the access to them are convenient and good. They have all several domes, and from one to six or seven minarets, which are high slender towers with two or three outside galleries, whence the muezzins, turning with solemnity to the four quarters of the globe, in an audible voice, proclaim the hours of prayer, and admonish the people to attend. They are kept very clean within, and many of them are maintained at an enormous expence. Of these moschs, which are extremely numerous*, seven, by way of pre-eminence, are distinguished by the title of royal moschs; and of these again, St. Sophia is, in every respect, the most magnificent

* There are said to be upwards of two thousand moschs at Constantinople.

and remarkable. I shall, therefore, endeavour to give you a description of it.

This celebrated temple stands on the ruins of a church of the same name, which was burnt during the memorable sedition of the *Nika*, and employed, for the space of nearly six years, the hands of ten thousand workmen. It was erected by Justinian, and dedicated by him to the service of the true God; and, although defaced in many parts, and divested of those costly ornaments which once adorned it, is still a superb edifice. When Mahomet II. entered the city, struck with the majesty of its appearance, he allowed it to escape the ravages of his exterminating hand, and converted it into a place of religious worship for his followers. It is built in the form of a Greek cross, and the entrance is

through a double portico, which communicates with the body of the church by means of several folding doors of bronze, covered with bas-reliefs. The inside consists of an immense ile, three sides of which are encompassed with a gallery, supported by an astonishing number of variegated marble pillars. The principal dome, which measures one hundred and thirteen feet in diameter, is constructed on arches which repose on four immense columns, and is much admired for its gentle concavity, and the justness of its proportions. The roof is worked in mosaic, the walls are entirely encrusted with marble, and the pavement and stairs, which are covered with carpets, are of the same expensive material. We were only permitted to take a view of this church from a part of the gallery, through

a lattice. Several Turks were at prayers, although no person was officiating; some quite motionless, whilst others entertained us with a variety of violent and extravagant gesticulations. Near the middle of the ile, a pulpit is erected for the musti, and, beyond it, stands a kind of pew with a gilded lattice, which is appropriated to the grand seignor, when he honours this mosch with his presence. The nich, in which the Koran is deposited, always faces the holy city of Mecca, towards which the mussulmans turn, whenever they repeat their prayers. The Turks ornament the walls of their moschs with moral distichs of Arabian poetry and passages from the Koran, which are written in letters of gold; but, considering an attempt to represent the human form as a criminal presumption, they neither admit

statues nor paintings. Women are also excluded from the moschs, from a fear of their engrossing too much of the attention of the men, which is so frequently the case at our own churches, where a pair of fine eyes is apt to relax the fervour of devotion, and to render us totally forgetful of the moral lessons of the preacher. The man who conducted us through the gallery (and who had made us pay pretty handsomely for his trouble*), desired us to remark two stone gates, one of which, he said, led to paradise, the other to the infernal regions. He also, with a sarcastic smile, pointed out a cross, which is represented in mosaic on one of the

* The Turks are rather scrupulous about shewing this mosch to strangers, or perhaps they only pretend to be so, because this is the one strangers are most anxious to see. We were obliged to pay fifteen dollars to gain admission.

walls, and is a remnant of the Greek ornaments. There are, indeed, several remains of mosaic pictures to be seen in different parts; but the Turks, paying no attention to them, nor taking any pains to preserve them, they are falling fast to decay. They are made of a curious composition of a vitrified nature, and the colours, which are of numerous shades, retain their original lustre.

Such are the principal ancient relicks of the former splendour of Constantinople, once renowned for laws and arms, once the abode of the sciences and arts, once unrivalled in riches, in elegance, and splendour, the envy of surrounding nations, and the admiration of the world.

Yours, &c.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.



